





## HOME NEWS

## Explosives in lorry were to make bombs for a Protestant group in Ulster, Crown alleges

Explosives found hidden in a lorry-load of food bound for Northern Ireland were intended to be made into bombs for a Protestant paramilitary organization, it was alleged at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

In the dock were two men from Belfast and three from Liverpool, who have all denied charges of conspiracy to cause explosions.

They are Francis Wylie, aged 26, of Ravenhill Road, and Norman Kinner, aged 24, of High Vale Gardens, both of Belfast; Harold James, aged 31, of Morton Street, Harry Lloyd, aged 23, of Beatrice Street, and Tyrrell, aged 24, of Lilac Grove, all Liverpool.

Mr David McNeill, QC, for the prosecution, told Mr Justice Cantley and the jury that the five defendants were either members or were prepared to assist in a campaign in Ulster. The Crown case was that each man was prepared to assist in the terrorist activities of the Northern Ireland Protestant paramilitary forces.

Counsel said the part of the conspiracy which was in the procuring, dispatch and transport to Northern Ireland of explosive materials referred to in the charge—62 sticks of gelignite, 25 electric detonators, 1,017 lb of sodium chlorate, and 92 lb of nitroform.

The "raw materials of terrorism" were to be used for the manufacture of bombs for the purposes of a Protestant paramilitary organization in Northern Ireland. The jury had

heard of an organization called the Ulster Volunteer Force, he added.

Mr Wylie, as far as known, was not a member of any political or paramilitary organization. He was a Belfast man who for about two years had been employed by an Ipswich firm as a lorry driver and his duties were to carry goods in an articulated vehicle to customers in Northern Ireland. His system was to drive to Heysham and take the ferry to Belfast. He had no occasion to go through Liverpool.

Mr McNeill said that on Thursday, February 13, Mr Wylie set off from Ipswich and should have been in Heysham in time for the early morning ferry the next day. But at 1.15 pm on the Friday his articulated lorry and trailer was seen by Merseyside police outside a block of flats in Liverpool, near Mr Lloyd's home.

The Crown case was that Mr Wylie spent part of the night at Mr Lloyd's home and was an active supporter of the Protestant paramilitary forces in Northern Ireland and one of the leaders of their supporters on Merseyside.

Mr Lloyd, a Liverpool corporation lighting department maintenance worker, was, in the submission of the Crown, an active supporter of the Protestant paramilitary forces in Northern Ireland and one of the leaders of their supporters on Merseyside.

When asked at Heysham what he did, Mr Wylie said he had foodstuffs in his trailer. The trailer was searched and the police found brown paper bags containing sodium chlorate, a weedkiller, and bags of fertilizer.

Mr Wylie at first said he had merely driven the lorry from Ipswich and denied that he had met anyone in Liverpool. Mr McNeill said. In his driving licence, the police found a piece of paper containing three telephone numbers, one each in Belfast, Liverpool and Glasgow.

Mr Wylie again disputed knowing about the weedkiller and other items in his vehicle, but said: "I must have been set up."

Asked what he thought the fertilizer and weedkiller were for, he allegedly said: "They can only be for one thing: making bombs." Mr McNeill said Mr Wylie claimed later that he had been put under pressure into doing what he did.

The Crown submitted that Mr Kinner was actively involved in the Protestant faction and was one of the men who loaded Mr Wylie's lorry because a palm print found inside one of the roller doors corresponded with Mr Kinner's. The telephone numbers found on Mr Wylie had been written by Mr Kinner, counsel said. Mr Kinner was the regular liaison between militant Ulster Protestants and supporters in England.

Mr McNeill said that at the homes of Mr Lloyd and Mr James were materials bearing UVF insignia, and some literature. Det. Inspector Vincent Shields said he asked Mr Wylie about his involvement and he replied: "If you don't do as they say it's a bullet in the back of your head or a knee-capping job. I would not give you minutes outside if I told you."

The trial continues today.



A 20ft square floating island for water birds, anchored in a lake at Rugeley power station, Staffordshire.

## Incitement summons dismissed

From Our Correspondent Manchester

Mrs. Alex Mary Otten, of Longsight, Manchester, was cleared yesterday of attempting to incite a person to commit an offence contrary to the Incitement to Disaffection Act, 1934.

Mr Brian Duckworth, for the prosecution, said that two leaflets were delivered to a company flat at Fallowfield, Manchester, last February and were later found by the caretaker who handed them to the police. One leaflet was headed "Some Information for Discontented Soldiers."

It was aimed at encouraging soldiers, particularly those in Northern Ireland, to desert. Mr Duckworth said. He alleged that Mrs Otten was an organizer or someone concerned locally with the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign.

He said her name and address were on the second leaflet and she was concerned in disseminating the literature and attempting to commit the offence of endeavouring to seduce soldiers from their allegiance. Dismissing the summons against Mrs Otten, who was not called to give evidence, Mr John Bamber, the magistrate, said the evidence showed only that she was sympathetic to that particular cause.

"Perhaps she had a slightly more prominent position than other more sympathizers in that area was an address through which people could be contacted. But she is not shown with sufficient certainty to have had in her possession or under her control documents with the intent to procure a breach of the Act."

## Closure of rural fire stations averted by vote

From Our Correspondent Leamington Spa

A decision by Warwickshire County Council yesterday averted the threatened closure of five part-time rural fire stations under a programme of water-saving economy cuts.

As reported in *The Times* on Monday, other shire counties have been watching the outcome as they consider whether to follow Warwickshire's lead.

The council voted by 33 votes to 13 to reject a recommendation from the public protection committee that the stations at Brighthelm, Polesworth, Tysoe, Ferry Compton and Bidwirth should be axed to save £50,000.

Building improvements planned for some of the five stations will stay in the budget programme for 1976-77.

Councillor James McGrouther, representing Warwick District Council, said it was in the best interests of humanity, and the protection of property that the county council should continue to provide the best service available.

## Tory attack on centralized control of education

By Our Political Staff

Government plans to remove from local education authorities the power to decide how to organize schools, were a giant stride towards a state-controlled system of education, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, MP, the Opposition spokesman on education, said in London yesterday.

## Doctors' new committee gets ready for action

By John Roper Medical Reporter

The new executive committee representing junior hospital doctors will meet for the first time tomorrow.

The new leaders are pledged to change the Government's attitude towards their contract or to organize industrial action by the country's junior doctors by the end of next week. Their chairman is Dr David Wardle, a registrar specializing in cancer at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow.

Most of his colleagues on the committee come from areas that have taken unofficial militant action during the past six weeks.

Dr Martin Baylis, a deputy chairman, comes from Oxford and Mr Wally Sakalo, Dr J. D. Cooper and Dr Anthony Mander, members of the committee, come from the North-west region. Dr Mander resigned six

weeks ago from the old committee because, he said, he could not support its policies.

Dr Peter Zacharias and Dr J. N. Johnson are British Medical Association representative body nominees, and Dr John McClure (Northern Ireland) and Dr David Hutton (Wales) served on the old committee. Dr J. A. Robertson is a north-west Thames and Dr R. Durnall a south-west Thames representative.

It is only in the past two years that the junior doctors have had their own autonomous committee of the BMA. It represents all junior hospital doctors, even if they are not members of the association, and has the sole right to negotiate with the Government, a right challenged by the break-away Junior Hospital Doctors' Association.

Leading article, page 17

## Patients 'becoming angry' as dispute drags on

There are signs that patients are beginning to be unsympathetic towards junior hospital doctors, according to the Patients' Association.

Mrs Jean Robinson, chairman of the association, said yesterday that if the doctors overplayed their hand in their present dispute with the Government, the doctor-patient relationship might be damaged seriously and permanently.

"In using the build-up of suffering in the community as an industrial weapon the junior doctors are playing a dangerous game," she said. The association was getting letters and calls indicating that patients had had enough.

In the past six weeks about eight thousand junior doctors have taken unofficial industrial action. Little has come to light

about suffering caused to patients. Many doctors appreciate that if they limit their work not only patients in hospital and those awaiting admission suffer. There is also a shuttle effect, one result of which must be that the opportunity of an early diagnosis, which may make a vital difference in many cases, is lost.

Mrs Robinson added that old people were increasingly at risk because of the dispute. Some times they could not be helped if treatment was not given at the right time. Young people were unable to work because they could not get treatment.

"We are all subject to the £6 limit," she said. "The time has come for the doctors to go back to work, and the patients will support them."

## MP on 'myth' of Scotland joining the EEC

From a Staff Reporter Edinburgh

Lord Kilbrandon was attacked yesterday by his successor during a BBC programme on devolution that while Edinburgh and Brussels would be important to Scotland Westminster would fade away.

## Student nurses may lose jobs if they pass exams

Nearly 50 student nurses at Exeter and Torbay may lose their jobs in a few weeks' time if they pass their qualifying examinations. But nurses who fail will be kept on as students.

The 30 nurses at Exeter and 17 at Torbay have been told that it is unlikely there will be any jobs for them locally because a one-month freeze on staff appointments has been imposed by Devon Area Health Authority, which is worried about overspending.

The student nurses, who have taken their examinations, find themselves in a plight already confronting nurses in Portsmouth, Swansea, Sheffield,

## Sister's £9,000 job spurs Mr Sakalo

By Our Medical Reporter

There is nothing complicated about Mr Wally Sakalo, which is probably the key to his rapid and influential rise in the affairs of junior hospital doctors. To him the issues in the present dispute are extremely simple and he explains them in sentences studded with down-to-earth expressions which drown all but the most determined interrupter.

Six weeks ago he returned from a month's visit to his family in Australia. "My father had died, my mother had remarried a 6ft 2in Australian and I had got divorced," Mr Sakalo said.

One of my sisters, Alla, who is 24, is a first-year house officer and she is earning £9,000 for 40 hours, with time and a quarter for overtime. She has been qualified for nine months, and I have been qualified for seven years and I am on £4,500. It made me determined to try to obtain the same work conditions for British doctors."

Mr Sakalo may have learnt some of the moderate or establishment standards at his

Western Australia, then Perth.

"My father's degree was never recognised in Australia, and he worked as a technician. But he had a flourishing 'illegal' private practice: the Slaves, Ukrainians, Poles, and Italians used to consult him."

Mr Sakalo denies that he is a militant and points out that 1,400 doctors elected him to the British Medical Association in the North-west and that on Monday he was elected to the new executive committee in the upheaval that threw out the juniors who had negotiated the new contract.

"It was the policy of the north-western doctors that had been adopted. He had always made it clear that he did not want to be national chairman of the juniors. He was an Australian and would be returning there in two years' time."

In his view the events of the past two days, with the result of the national ballot and the overthrow of the juniors' leaders, have demonstrated that the British Medical Association is not a moderate or establishment body, as the juniors' parents fled from communism."

It was lucky that I was born 31 years ago in the British Empire. When I was a child, the family, as displaced migrants, went to Fremantle,

father's knee. His parents were born in Kiev. His father was a "surgeon-GP" and fought against the Russians and the Germans.

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## PLO man attends Communist congress

The Palestine Liberation Organization was officially represented yesterday at the annual conference in London of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

Mr Said Hammami, a member of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's political branch, went up to the rostrum as applause died down for another "fraternal delegate" from the Israel Communist Party.

He said: "It will be recorded in the history of our people that the first British political party ever to officially invite a delegation from the PLO was the Communist Party, and I want it to be made clear that we are glad and proud of this."

The PLO's struggle was against Zionist expansionist policies and not against Israel itself or the Jews, he said. Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, had asked him to pass on "fraternal greetings and great admiration" to the comrades of the Israel Communist Party.

Mr David Thomas, secretary of the Israel Communist Party's central committee, said the Geneva peace conference should be reconvened and all parties concerned, including the PLO, should take part.

The 400 delegates were considering a resolution, later accepted, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and the PLO, and with the Israel Communist Party, which "opposes the aggressive policy and actions of the Israeli Government."

The congress adopted a resolution, debated on Saturday, on Communism in Britain and the World, which amongst other things called for free expression of dissenting views in the Soviet Union. There were three against and two abstentions.

A policy document on Northern Ireland, debated on Monday, calling for a Bill of Rights for the province and withdrawal of British troops to barracks, was also adopted.

## Guide to social benefits

A booklet on family benefits and pensions, which has been designed as a guide for all who can help others claim their rights, was published yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Security.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Communists of Italy and France revise their stand on Europe

From Peter Nichols Rome, Nov 18

The evolution of a well-defined Communist policy on Europe became clear yesterday through the statements of the party leading members of the party calling for greater European unity and greater understanding of the Italian Communists' approach to the problems of the Continent.

Signor Giorgio Amendola, who is a member of the Italian delegation to the European Parliament, admitted frankly in an interview that the party in the past had misunderstood the European situation.

"The Common Market was made to appear an enemy to be beaten. We then realized that it was a windmill that a European community did not exist and had to be created," he stated.

Now, with the economic crisis to face, Europe had to have that minimum of economic unity which had not yet been reached. The crisis was endangering the liberalization of internal trade.

Europe as a community had been put off balance by the effects of the crisis, and by competition from the United States, and had failed to control the operations of multinational companies.

The Community had to overcome its internal differences in order to create the first of a new policy, which would be the premise for a political unity, he suggested.

Instead, there was fighting with no holds barred among its members. The present position could not be taken as one of the political and plans in hand did not appear feasible in current circumstances.

Though talking of a contradiction between American and European interests, Signor Amendola said that the question was one of conducting an anti-American policy but of conducting a European policy aimed at European autonomy.

The Communists wanted to build a European community "because the multinational companies can only be fought with the aid of these powers can be efficacious only if they have a democratic basis by means of elections by universal suffrage to the European Parliament."

He spoke sadly of socialist disunity on Europe. The differences between Italian Communists and Italian Christian Democrats on the parliamentary delegation to Strasbourg were often less, he said, than those dividing the various European socialist parties.

The French and Italian Communists favour the plurality of political parties, the right of opposition parties to exist, and to take the free formation of a government, and the free expression of private life, the religious liberties, the total freedom of expression of currents of thought, and of every philosophical, cultural and artistic opinion.

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known what their views on Europe really were. Secondly, they were promoting at a West European level, and in the first place, as EEC level, a process of bringing democratic and left-wing forces closer together and towards agreement.

This was the importance, he said, of the joint statement issued yesterday after talks between the first secretaries of the French and Italian parties, M Georges Marchais and Signor Enrico Berlinguer.

"It is," he added, "our profound conviction that, whatever may be the differences between the various countries of Western Europe, and however great they might be, there is not a single one of these countries in which the policy of the workers' movement could detach itself from certain common features belonging to a strategy of effective advance towards socialism in the whole of Western Europe."

In a sense, these two interviews have accurately framed the significance of the Franco-Italian declaration. The meetings between the French and Italian leaders, cannot always have been easy. Traditionally, the French Party has been much less flexible and imaginative than the Italian.

The wording is regarded here as having reflected to a notable extent the views of the Italians. Officially, the Italian party is bound to a policy of seeking a common front with the workers' movements with the various Christian Democrats which should lead eventually to a coalition, whereas the French party is seeking to create a left-wing alternative to the present majority.

Against the two sides expressed agreement on the basic principles of defending democracy and liberty.

The declaration said: "All those liberties which are the fruit of the great democratic-bourgeois revolutions or of the great popular struggles of this century, which have the workers' class at their head, must be guaranteed and developed; and thus, the liberty of thought and expression, of the press, of meeting and association, the right to demonstrate, the free movement of people inside and outside their country, the inviolability of private life, the religious liberties, the total freedom of expression of currents of thought, and of every philosophical, cultural and artistic opinion."

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## HOME NEWS

Bishop  
and  
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agency

From John Young  
Planning Reporter  
Liverpool

A scheme in Liverpool to build low-priced houses for sale instead of new council houses seems certain to start a national controversy. If widely copied it might provoke a coalition between non-socialist councils and the Government even fiercer than that over education.

The scheme is a result of what would seem an unlikely partnership between Mr Trevor Jones, Liberal chairman of the city's housing committee, and Lord Greenwood of Rossendale, former Minister of Housing and now deputy chairman of the House of Commons. It has been attacked by Labour councillors and is clearly regarded sceptically by officials in the council's housing department.

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Serafin, aged 20, one of the leading Young Tories, said to be on the shield of a successful career, was sent to a fender's instruction for a fraud in excess of £1,000.

Francis Middleton, Mr Serafin's father, after being Secretary of Defence, Mr Edward P for Glasgow, Carlisle and Erskine church. They all commended in for his political enthusiasm.

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Council's scheme to build low-price homes for sale looks like starting a national controversy  
'Jones the Vote' stirs a hornets' nest under the town halls

From John Young  
Planning Reporter  
Liverpool

A scheme in Liverpool to build low-priced houses for sale instead of new council houses seems certain to start a national controversy. If widely copied it might provoke a coalition between non-socialist councils and the Government even fiercer than that over education.

Broadly the aim is to build about five hundred two-bedroom and three-bedroom houses on a 30-acre site recently cleared of slums. The houses would be offered for sale to people on the council's waiting list at estimated prices of between £7,000 and £8,000.

## Liverpool adds a new twist to the 'for sale or rent' dispute over municipal building.

Mr Jones's opponents maintain that his scheme will produce slums and they insist that the number of people on the waiting list either able or willing to buy their own homes is nowhere near as high as some Liberal and Conservative say. Mr Jones, however, who was once christened "Jones the Vote" in recognition of his electioneering talents, unrepentantly says that he would like to cur new council building

ing old council properties. Faced with cutting either quantity or quality, the council chose to postpone improvements such as central heating and new extensions.

Many local authorities are wondering why their own programmes have been cut while money is still freely available to housing associations, landlords and owner-occupiers in housing action areas and general improvement areas.

Paroled man  
shot friend  
he took for  
informer

A man on parole from a seven-year sentence for robbery who shot a man he believed had informed on him was jailed for eight years by Mr Justice Waller at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

Meat output  
'must be  
increased'

By Hugh Clayton

Britain must produce more meat although we are likely to eat less, Professor George Allen of Aberdeen University said yesterday. "It is likely that Britain will not be able to afford much meat in 1980 than it did 10 years earlier," he predicted.

Appeal over shot  
colonel fails

Barry Reid, an hotel worker of Brierley Gardens, Orterburn, Northumberland, who was jailed for five years for his part in the killing of Lieutenant-Colonel John Stevenson, commander of an army camp at Orterburn, has his appeal against sentence and conviction for manslaughter and being in joint possession of the murder weapons dismissed by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

## Nationalists' choice

Mr John Donachy, aged 49, former general manager of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry), is to contest the Labour-held Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth seat for the Scottish National Party at the next election.

## Medal for rescue

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution has awarded its bronze medal to Mr Michael Coates, helmsman of Whoby inshore lifeboat, for rescuing a man who was stranded on a cliff and slipped into the sea.

## Pavilion fire charge

A second man has been charged with damaging the Royal Pavilion at Brighton by fire earlier this month. He is David Barratt, aged 22, a merchant seaman, of Compton Road, Brighton, and he will appear in court today.

## Theatre makes profit

Norwich Theatre Royal made a profit of nearly £35,000 last year, its first since being bought by the city council eight years ago.

## Students' protest march

Leeds students are to hold a rally and march tomorrow protesting against the Government's cuts in education expenditure.

## House prices rising by about 1 per cent a month

By Margaret Stone

House prices are continuing to rise slowly but steadily. Figures released yesterday by the Department of the Environment show that prices, based on mortgage approvals for new houses, rose by 3 per cent in the third quarter of this year.

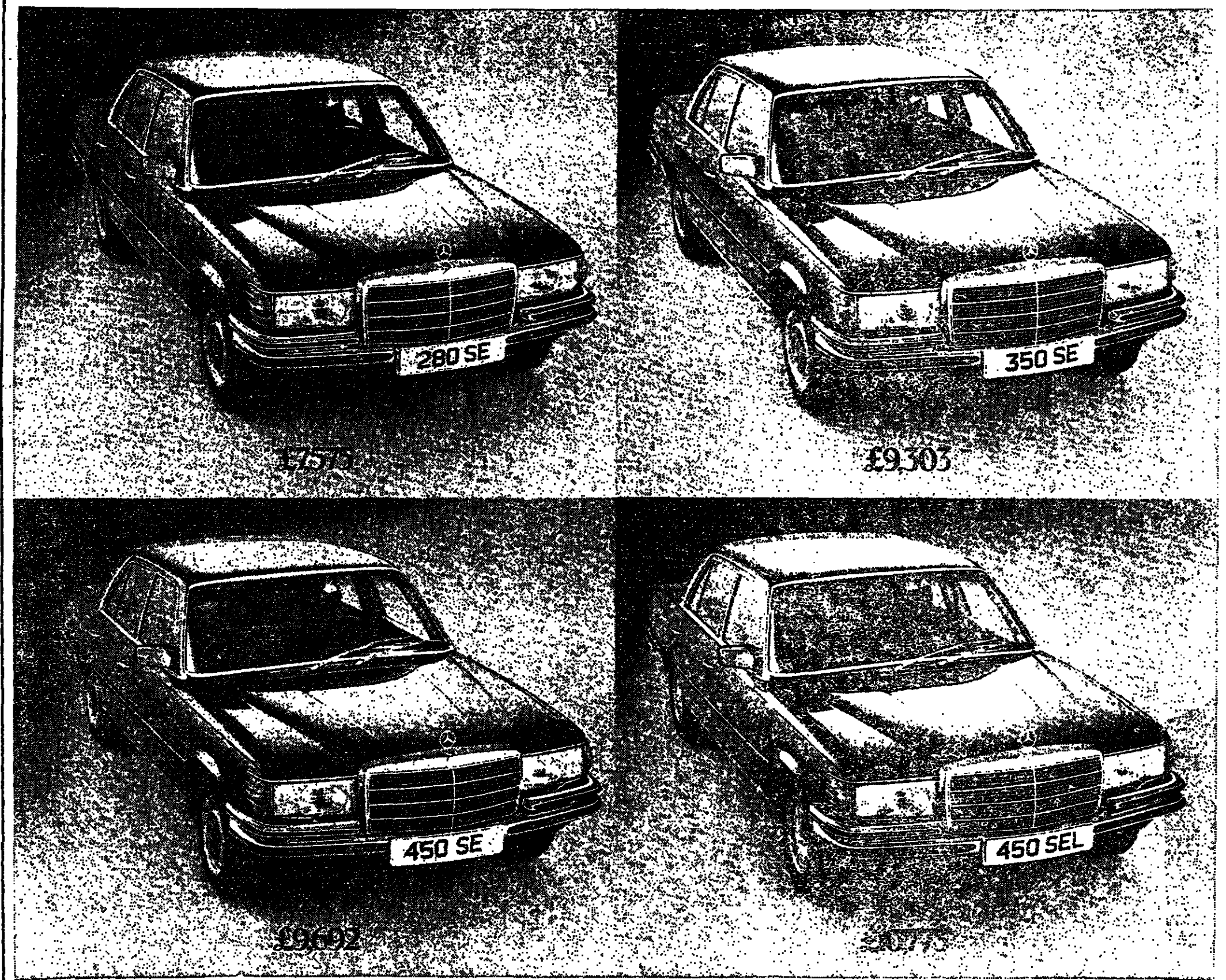
There has been a slight slowing compared with the 4 1/2 per cent rise in house prices recorded in the second quarter of the year, which is one of the busiest seasons in the housing market. During the first three

months of the year prices were also 3 per cent higher, so taking the year to end with September, house prices appear to be rising at a rate of just over 1 per cent a month.

Co-op raises car  
insurance  
premiums by £6

Motor insurance premiums will be increased by 13 per cent by the Co-operative Insurance Society from January 1. It said yesterday that the rises would mean that the average car owner would pay £54 a year instead of £48.

About a million vehicles would be involved, the Manchester-based company said. It is one of the top six British motor insurance companies.



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## HOME NEWS

## Inflation uppermost at start of crucial parliamentary session

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Staff

Cabinet ministers embark on the new parliamentary session today recognising that it may be decisive for government policies and their impact upon the country.

The devolution debate is expected to dominate the timetable, but ministers are fully conscious that the greatest challenge to their credibility will be the Government's attempts to counter inflation and halt the growth of rising unemployment.

The arguments over the Government's devolution proposals will be sustained, but there now appears to be a general acceptance on the Government benches that there is little prospect of their appearing on the statute book in the forthcoming session.

Although the White Paper is expected to appear at the end of this month, ministers have prepared themselves for a long period of consultation. Moreover it has been made known privately that the parliamentary draughtsmen are having to wrestle with complicated constitutional issues, which will mean that the Bill will not appear before Parliament until June March at the earliest.

Inevitably the main preoccupations of senior Cabinet ministers is the economy, and they have been given advance warnings that they can expect criticisms from trade union leaders, if only to protect their own positions in the run-up to the union annual conferences.

and criticisms of the 55-a-week pay limit.

The Government's legislative programme to be announced in the Queen's Speech today was given its final approval by the Cabinet yesterday and last night Mr Wilson held a reception for junior ministers at Downing Street to outline the proposals.

Earlier Mr Wilson had been prevented by a chill from greeting President Nyerere of Tanzania, when he arrived at Victoria Station at the start of a state visit. His place was taken by Mr Short, Lord President of the Council.

It is understood that there were no surprises in the Government's programme although a minor reaction may be expected from Labour backbenchers who are calling for the public ownership of the ports. That commitment is believed to have been dropped from the forthcoming session, and Labour backbenchers, led by their own ports group, are contemplating tabling an amendment to the Queen's Speech regretting that the delay is contrary to the national interest.

However, the Government is to go ahead with the extension of the dock labour scheme, which has already been promised stiff opposition from the Conservative front benches.

Another area of dispute will be over education. The Government is expected to include in its legislative programme a Bill to reorganize secondary education on comprehensive lines despite the propaganda campaign being mounted in the past week by the Conservatives.

## Coventry braces itself as key industries face trouble

From Arthur Osman  
Coventry

With much of its workforce suspended in limbo and not knowing whether tomorrow, the next day, or next week will end at the employment office, Coventry is concluding the year at its lowest ebb for half a century.

Every one of its key industries—cars, machine tools and telecommunications, and textiles to a lesser extent—is in grave trouble with few signs of a lifeline in the foreseeable future. As a Chrysler man remarked yesterday: "You know the bomb has been released somewhere up there, but when and where it will land is anybody's guess. There does not seem much you can do."

The very real danger for Coventry is a possible doubling of its 16,000 unemployed overnight.

Mr Short, Leader of the House of Commons, has promised: "We have no intention of seeing the greatest industrial and engineering complex in Europe go to the wall."

His words were not matched some weeks ago, however, when the West Midlands, of which Coventry is now the most easterly part, pleaded for government aid to revitalize it. It was told it could be considered only in the overall national picture and not as a special case.

Coventry, geared to the fluctuations of the car trade, has always had a resilience going from good times to bad and back again in the space of weeks, but this time there is a feeling, almost a certainty, that there is only one way—down.

The Chrysler factories are limping along on the shortest of short time, and for many men there will be no work at all in December. As the cracks in the city's industrial fabric widen the trouble is beginning to be reflected in such vital matters as mortgage repayments, particularly those to the local council. Coventry has £50m out in mortgage loans to support the laudable view that, if it could not build enough houses, it could at least supply the cash for would-be owner-occupiers.

Work then was plentiful and well paid, and a wife usually helped to meet the bills. The changed circumstances today have put severe strain on people who were advanced sums equal to three and a half times their income. Arrears have gone up to £260,000, of which £150,000 has been owing for three months or more.

Much of the money was borrowed without deposit by people with little or no equity.

One case, perhaps not typical but an indication of civic generosity in the good years, was that of a youth of 18 and his bride, aged 16. They borrowed £9,000, but when it was pointed out that they had to pay for a surveyor's fee, the husband said: "You will have to wait until Friday, when I get paid."

People like that were in trouble from the outset and are now hopelessly out of their depth. Some have walked out of their houses, and last week 20 repossessed properties were put on the market by the council.

Rate and rent arrears are fairly constant, but Mr Bryan Collins, the council's housing chairman, has begun approaching people personally to sort out difficulties, the object being to keep them in their houses if possible. He is seeing about forty a week, with a degree of success.

The local building society, the Coventry Economic, is surprised that few people have approached it about repayment difficulties so far.

Next door, in Nuneaton, which also has a high proportion of car and allied workers, Mr James Diskin, chairman of the housing committee, said: "Cries for help are coming in thick and fast, and we need direct financial help from the Government. This is an overflow town with new housing estates and people paying about £80 to £90 a month. We are in the worst situation I have ever known."

He said he had had calls for help from families about to be evicted for being in arrears with repayments.

At the Coventry Trustee Savings Bank there was also surprise that there had been no discernible run on deposits to shore up absent or thinner pay packets. "Coventry has always been an up-and-down city, and in periods of high earnings the local man has not been a tremendous saver," an official said. "There seems a numbness this time, however, and we feel that it is the jolt before the storm. At the moment they seem to be determined to cut spending and exist on what benefits they are getting."

The finance houses reported no significant increase in repossessions, although locally it was suggested that there had been many, especially of cars and television sets. The retail trade said takings were well down but steady.

The market in property under £10,000 is static, although what one estate agent described as "protected people" such as civil servants are buying in the £15,000 to £20,000 range. Another agent said the city's most striking oddity development had not been let because people had not much confidence in Coventry these days.

## Councils urged to kick back at critics

From Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

On the eve of a local government conference to be held at Eastbourne, Sir Lou Sherriff, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, yesterday urged government to kick back at critics.

He told a meeting of association that for some time there had been complacency about local services costing much. At the same time it had been demands for better services and a wider range.

"We stand in the cross between these two with people demanding the impossible situation should be resolved," he said.

Sir Lou said the authority should not be mesmerized by the possibility that the field inquiry into local government finance was to be a panacea for all difficulties. The Government took the TUC into its confidence and must also bring in government.

The association unanimously passed a resolution asking Government to postpone review of electoral arrangements in metropolitan districts.

Councillor T. Megahy Kirklees, said that a review now would cause unnecessary disruption of local government so soon after the upheavals of reorganization, and harm relationships between the public and the new authorities.

Sir Robert Thomas, chairman of the association, said he had asked the Government to postpone the review until it still being considered.

Mr Wilson will be at the joint conference of Government and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the Association of County Councils, and Association of County Councils.

Mr Cusland, Secretary for the Environment, spoke to the expected delegates today.

Some councils, among the London borough of Islington, refused to attend the conference because of the economic situation.

## Traders fined £190,000

Traders paid a total of £190,000 in fines in the nine months of this year failing to make value-added returns, it was disclosed yesterday.

All 1,000 customs and excise prosecutions this year were successful, according to the quarterly issue of *Vat A*. Individual fines ranged up to £3,000, it adds.

## Call for action on cancer-risk chemical kits

Prompt action to stop the sale of swimming pool test kits that contain a chemical known to cause cancer was called for yesterday by the Environmental Health Officers' Association.

The kits determine the chlorine content of water and some, thought to be mostly imported, contain orthotolidine. The risk from the chemical has been known for at least eight years.

Both the industry and government departments should act, the association's journal says in an editorial. The largest supplier of such kits in Britain changed to a different chemical in 1968 after the risks had first become apparent.

## AUEW poll 'vindicates postal ballots'

Continued from page 1

with the result, which I hope will lead to an end of the union being a rogue elephant of the trade union movement."

He was pleased with the 38 per cent participation in the poll. "This is a clear expression of the retention of the postal ballot system. No one can interpret it in any other way."

Mr Laird considered his victory to be a vindication of his campaign, which was based on the retention of postal balloting and adherence to the TUC line on income policies.

Asked if he saw the result as an expression by members of disillusionment with left-wing policies, Mr Laird replied: "I certainly interpret it as an expression of discontent by our members in regard to the poli-

cies being pursued by the executive council. You can interpret that any way you like."

He added: "Instead of concentrating on political affairs we shall be concentrating on industrial affairs, wages and conditions."

Mr Duffy said the results were the greatest fillip to the union's moderates for twenty years.

He added: "I am not surprised that we have won but I am surprised at the percentage of our vote. It means the AUEW membership has recorded a vote of no confidence in the present executive council and the president."

Mr Leslie Dixon, a communist member of the executive, said: "It takes tragic circumstances like these that will eventually convince our mem-

bers that they need to ignore the interference of the media."

Mr Duffy will be succeeding Mr Wright as the union's chief representative in the heartland of the British engineering industry, the Midlands and Greater Manchester.

Mr Wright has been a leading spokesman in the motor and electricity supply industry. He is a member of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' executive and the TUC conference arrangements committee.

The rank-and-file support for candidates who back the government-TUC counter-inflation initiative is bound to influence the union's national committee when it meets next month to consider its attitude to the £6 limit.

Leading article, page 17

## British Rail reprieves its women's waiting rooms

Railway waiting rooms for women, threatened by the march of the Sex Discrimination Act, have been reprieved. British Rail said yesterday that it had changed its mind, and they will all be left open until time and modernization dispose of them.

The British Railways Board decided recently, after careful study of the new Act that women's waiting rooms would have to go.

The only exception appeared to have been waiting rooms

with lavatories attached. They would win exemption on the ground of necessary "decency or privacy."

Now British Rail has revised its views. Informed sources in Whitehall make it clear that in any event, the board was probably being unnecessarily fearful of being unnecessarily fearful of the Act. Women's waiting rooms could probably win exemption on the ground that they provided facilities for nursing mothers who would be in a state of undress and thus entitled to privacy.

## Listed buildings face demolition threat

Conservationists in Peterborough will make representations to a government inspector today in an attempt to save 15 listed buildings from demolition. The buildings stand in the way of a multi-million pound shopping complex planned as part of the £600m expansion scheme for Peterborough, which will be doubling its size and population by 1985.

Mr John Dahl, an inspector from the Department of the Environment, opened an inquiry at which 30 objections will be heard, including protests from the Museum Society, the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral, and the Peterborough Society, an organization devoted to the preservation of ancient buildings which is campaigning against the present proposals.

Mr David Trustram Eve, QC, appearing for the development corporation, which is handling the Peterborough scheme, said: "The buildings all have different merits but the case for their demolition is basically the same."

The corporation maintains that work on the shopping centre, to be built on a 15-acre site at a cost of £15m, cannot proceed unless the buildings are demolished. The covered complex will eventually include seven stores, 80 smaller shops, a public house, cafés, restaurants, a club, offices, a bus station and car parks.

The buildings facing demolition include Wortley's Workhouse which was given to the city by Edward Wortley, who was MP for Peterborough in 1744; several seventeenth-century almshouses; Victorian and Edwardian public houses with imposing facades; and a row of 100-year-old properties lately used as shops.

The hearing is expected to last three days.

## Fight to save ancient barn

By Staff Reporters

The fate of a twelfth century barn in rural Essex was in the balance yesterday in spite of a local campaign to save it from demolition.

An inquiry opened yesterday at the Barn Collier's application to demolish it.

Local and national organizations fighting the application include the Coggeshall Grange Barn Fund, set up to save the barn and turn it into a community centre. Mr Cullen says the 120ft by 40ft building, which has partially collapsed, is dangerous and beyond repair.

ever, the cost of maintaining the huge barn has become too much for Mr Robert Cullen, the owner of Grange Farm, on which it stands, and the barn has been allowed to deteriorate. An inquiry opened yesterday at the Barn Collier's application to demolish it.

Local and national organizations fighting the application include the Coggeshall Grange Barn Fund, set up to save the barn and turn it into a community centre. Mr Cullen says the 120ft by 40ft building, which has partially collapsed, is dangerous and beyond repair.

## Compulsory insurance for solicitors

By Our Legal Correspondent

A controversial compulsory insurance scheme covering solicitors against claims for negligence or dishonesty has been adopted by the Law Society.

In future all solicitors will have to be insured through a single master policy, and will no longer be able to "shop around" for professional indemnity insurance.

The adoption of the scheme by the Law Society, which negotiated it with a consortium of 15 Lloyd's syndicates and four insurance companies, comes after months of occasionally bitter argument within the solicitors' profession. Last month a postal ballot of

all 29,850 solicitors resulted in a 50 per cent vote in favour of the compulsory scheme. Nearly two-thirds voted.

One of the main objections to the scheme came from solicitors who maintained that they would be able to negotiate as good a cover for a smaller premium if allowed to shop around. The master policy requires a solicitor on his own to pay an annual premium of £387.50; a firm of solicitors is charged at the rate of £310 a partner.

Another objection to the Law Society's scheme came from the smaller firms, and those outside the big cities, who said that the type of work done by them did not require large cover, yet they would be paying the same premiums as city firms at risk in multi-million pound deals.

The Law Society believes that the single compulsory master policy is to the benefit of the public. "Many solicitors at present are under-insured," some had no insurance at all. The cover provided by the scheme was far better than that available in the open market for the same price, it said.

While accepting that the smaller and more remote firms of solicitors seemed to be at a disadvantage, the Law Society emphasized that even a small mistake by such a firm could give rise to a huge claim. It was envisaged that the big city firms would have to top up the compulsory scheme with further insurance, negotiated privately.

## Girl tells jury of boy thrown from window

Gillian Glover, aged eight, told a murder trial jury at the High Court in Dundee yesterday that she saw a man throwing a boy from an upstairs tenement window.

The girl, of Hunters Crescent, Perth, was given a chair in front of the jury box so that the judge and jury could hear her answers to questions from counsel.

Duncan Nicoll, aged 23, of Hunters Crescent, Perth, pleaded not guilty to murdering Shane McLeish, aged five.

The girl recalled a day in July when she went to a post office for her mother. She said: "I stopped when I saw the man flinging the wee boy out of the window."

She saw the man opening the window from the bottom. He was holding the boy in both hands. One hand was on the boy's feet and the other was at the back of his neck. He threw the boy outwards. She was frightened and later told her mother. She said she would not recognize the man if she saw him again.

The trial continues today.

## Enthusiasts queue for trial of pop singer

Enthusiasts for the Bay City Rollers pop group, some of them from Manchester and Hull, queued for hours outside Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday for the start of the case in which the group's lead singer, Les McKeown, aged 19, is accused of causing death by reckless and dangerous driving.

Mr McKeown is alternatively charged with driving without due care and attention and causing his car to collide with a woman, Mrs Euphemia Cumie, aged 76, of Soughron Park, Edinburgh.

Mr Peter Bodenham, a 54-year-old Scottish Opera, said he was overtaken by a Mustang car, the speed of which he estimated at between 50 mph and 60 mph.

Mr Bodenham, 23, brother of the defendant, said in evidence that he began to cross the road change direction three times the path of the Mustang, which he said was "panicking". He said his brother's accident denied that the car's speed was excessive.

## Life jail for marksman who killed girl

Peter Mason, aged 27, a champion marksman, was jailed at the Central Criminal Court last night for life for the murder of the girl he coached at a shooting club to a championship plaque, Linda ("Lou") Laffan, aged 23. He collapsed when sentence was passed.

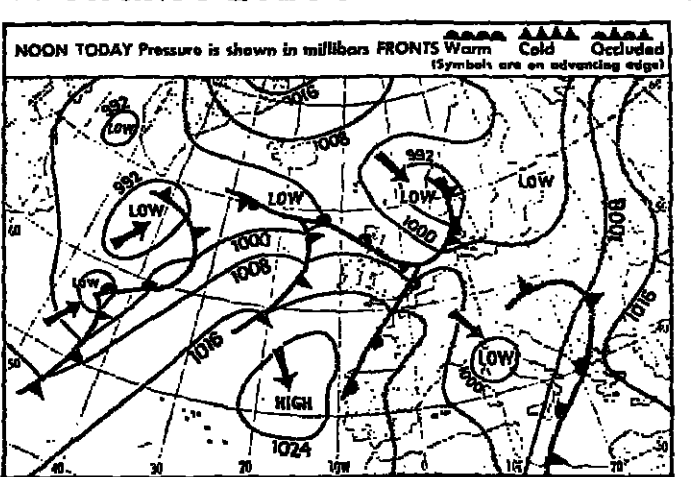
Mr Mason, of Marvels Lane, Grove Park, London, shot Miss Laffan outside her home in Zangwill Road, Blackheath, London, after discovering her relationship with another club member, Mr Alan Batham. He said the shooting was accidental.

Mr Justice Jones told him: "I would say to you in mercy that you must not lose all hope, despite the sentence which I am obliged by law to pass upon you. One day it will come to an end and you will be able to take again some position in society."

A father's courage saved his son from a prison sentence yesterday and won the praise of a judge at the Central Criminal Court. Robert Armstrong, aged 22, of South Shields, admitted attacking a man of 72 with an iron bar in a chemist's shop in a quest for drugs.

Mr Justice Jones told him: "I have been greatly impressed by your father and by the burden he has had to bear." He placed the son on probation for three years.

## Weather forecast and recordings



**Today**  
Sun rises: 7.24 am Sun sets: 4.7 pm  
Moon sets: 4.50 am Moon rises: 4.35 pm  
Last quarter: November 26  
Lighting up: 4.37 pm (10.55 am)  
High water: London Bridge, 1.44 am, 7.0m, (22.9ft); 1.37 pm, 6.9m, (22.8ft); Avonmouth, 7.12 am, 12.8m, (41.9ft); 7.33 pm, 12.8m, (41.9ft); Dover, 11.6 am, 6.4m, (21.0ft); 11.23 pm, 6.4m, (21.0ft); Hull, 6.1 am, 7.0m, (23.1ft); 6.20 pm, 7.2m, (23.6ft); Liverpool, 11.15 am, 9.0m, (29.5ft); 11.30 pm, 8.9m, (29.3ft).

Norway, maintaining a generally W airstream over the British Isles.  
**Area forecasts:**  
London, SE, central S, E, SW, NW and central N England, East Anglia, Midlands, Channel Islands, Wales, mainly cloudy, rain at times, few bright intervals; wind moderate; W: max temp 11°C (52°F).  
Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, SW Scotland, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy rain or drizzle, heavy at times; wind W, moderate or fresh; max temp 8°C (46°F).  
NE and NW Scotland, Orkney and Shetland: Cloudy, rain or showers, wintry at times; wind W or NW, fresh or strong, gale.

**WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY:** c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.  
Abolotti 10.75 Cologne 9.45  
Algeria 10.30 Dublin 9.45  
Amsterdam 10.30 Florence 9.45  
Birmingham 10.30 Geneva 9.45  
Bristol 10.30 Innsbruck 9.45  
Cardiff 10.30 London 9.45  
Cork 10.30 Madrid 9.45  
Dundee 10.30 Milan 9.45  
Edinburgh 10.30 Munich 9.45  
Exeter 10.30 Naples 9.45  
Glasgow 10.30 Paris 9.45  
Hull 10.30 Rome 9.45  
Inverness 10.30 Seville 9.45  
Leamington 10.30 Sicily 9.45  
Lisbon 10.30 Switzerland 9.45  
Liverpool 10.30 Tarragona 9.45  
London 10.30 Valencia 9.45  
Loughborough 10.30 Vienna 9.45  
Manchester 10.30 Zurich 9.45  
Newcastle 10.30  
New York 10.30  
Oxford 10.30  
Plymouth 10.30  
Reading 10.30  
Sheffield 10.30  
Southampton 10.30  
Stirling 10.30  
Tottenham 10.30  
Truro 10.30  
Wolverhampton 10.30  
Wrexham 10.30

**Yesterday**  
London: Temp: max 6°C (43°F); min 4°C (39°F); rain 6 am, 4°C (39°F); rain 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); rain 8 pm, 6°C (43°F); rain 10 pm, 5°C (41°F); rain 11 pm, 4°C (39°F); rain 12 am, 3°C (37°F); rain 1 am, 2°C (36°F); rain 2 am, 1°C (34°F); rain 3 am, 0°C (32°F); rain 4 am, -1°C (30°F); rain 5 am, -2°C (28°F); rain 6 am, -3°C (27°F); rain 7 am, -4°C (25°F); rain 8 am, -5°C (23°F); rain 9 am, -6°C (21°F); rain 10 am, -7°C (19°F); rain 11 am, -8°C (17°F); rain 12 pm, -9°C (15°F); rain 1 pm, -10°C (13°F); rain 2 pm, -11°C (11°F); rain 3 pm, -12°C (9°F); rain 4 pm, -13°C (7°F); rain 5 pm, -14°C (5°F); rain 6 pm, -15°C (3°F); rain 7 pm, -16°C (1°F); rain 8 pm, -17°C (-1°F); rain 9 pm, -18°C (-3°F); rain 10 pm, -19°C (-5°F); rain 11 pm, -20°C (-7°F); rain 12 am, -21°C (-9°F); rain 1 am, -22°C (-11°F); rain 2 am, -23°C (-13°F); rain 3 am, -24°C (-15°F); rain 4 am, -25°C (-17°F); rain 5 am, -26°C (-19°F); rain 6 am, -27°C (-21°F); rain 7 am, -28°C (-23°F); rain 8 am, -29°C (-25°F); rain 9 am, -30°C (-27°F); rain 10 am, -31°C (-29°F); rain 11 am, -32°C (-31°F); rain 12 pm, -33°C (-33°F); rain 1 pm, -34°C (-35°F); rain 2 pm, -35°C (-37°F); rain 3 pm, -36°C (-39°F); rain 4 pm, -37°C (-41°F); rain 5 pm, -38°C (-43°F); rain 6 pm, -39°C (-45°F); rain 7 pm, -40°C (-47°F); rain 8 pm, -41°C (-49°F); rain 9 pm, -42°C (-51°F); rain 10 pm, -43°C (-53°F); rain 11 pm, -44°C (-55°F); rain 12 am, -45°C (-57°F); rain 1 am, -46°C (-59°F); rain 2 am, -47°C (-61°F); rain 3 am, -48°C (-63°F); rain 4 am, -49°C (-65°F); rain 5 am, -50°C (-67°F); rain 6 am, -51°C (-69°F); rain 7 am, -52°C (-71°F); rain 8 am, -53°C (-73°F); rain 9 am, -54°C (-75°F); rain 10 am, -55°C (-77°F); rain 11 am, -56°C (-79°F); rain 12 pm, -57°C (-81°F); rain 1 pm, -58°C (-83°F); rain 2 pm, -59°C (-85°F); rain 3 pm, -60°C (-87°F); rain 4 pm, -61°C (-89°F); rain 5 pm, -62°C (-91°F); rain 6 pm, -63°C (-93°F); rain 7 pm, -64°C (-95°F); rain 8 pm, -65°C (-97°F); rain 9 pm, -66°C (-99°F); rain 10 pm, -67°C (-101°F); rain 11 pm, -68°C (-103°F); rain 12 am, -69°C (-105°F); rain 1 am, -70°C (-107°F); rain 2 am, -71°C (-109°F); rain 3 am, -72°C (-111°F); rain 4 am, -73°C (-113°F); rain 5 am, -74°C (-115°F); rain 6 am, -75°C (-117°F); rain 7 am, -76°C (-119°F); rain 8 am, -77°C (-121°F); rain 9 am, -78°C (-123°F); rain 10 am, -79°C (-125°F); rain 11 am, -80°C (-127°F); rain 12 pm, -81°C (-129°F); rain 1 pm, -82°C (-131°F); rain 2 pm, -83°C (-133°F); rain 3 pm, -84°C (-135°F); rain 4 pm, -85°C (-137°F); rain 5 pm, -86°C (-139°F); rain 6 pm, -87°C (-141°F); rain 7 pm, -88°C (-143°F); rain 8 pm, -89°C (-145°F); rain 9 pm, -90°C (-147°F); rain 10 pm, -91°C (-149°F); rain 11 pm, -92°C (-151°F); rain 12 am, -93°C (-153°F); rain 1 am, -94°C (-155°F); rain 2 am, -95°C (-157°F); rain 3 am, -96°C (-159°F); rain 4 am, -97°C (-161°F); rain 5 am, -98°C (-163°F); rain 6 am, -99°C (-165°F); rain 7 am, -100°C (-167°F); rain 8 am, -101°C (-169°F); rain 9 am, -102°C (-171°F); rain 10 am, -103°C (-173°F); rain 11 am, -104°C (-175°F); rain 12 pm, -105°C (-177°F); rain 1 pm, -106°C (-179°F); rain 2 pm, -107°C (-181°F); rain 3 pm, -108°C (-183°F); rain 4 pm, -109°C (-185°F); rain 5 pm, -110°C (-187°F); rain 6 pm, -111°C (-189°F); rain 7 pm, -112°C (-191°F); rain 8 pm, -113°C (-193°F); rain 9 pm, -114°C (-195°F); rain 10 pm, -115°C (-197°F); rain 11 pm, -116°C (-199°F); rain 12 am, -117°C (-201°F); rain 1 am, -118°C (-203°F); rain 2 am, -119°C (-205°F); rain 3 am, -120°C (-207°F); rain 4 am, -121°C (-209°F); rain 5 am, -122°C (-211°F); rain 6 am, -123°C (-213°F); rain 7 am, -124°C (-215°F); rain 8 am, -125°C (-217°F); rain 9 am, -126°C (-219°F); rain 10 am, -127°C (-221°F); rain 11 am, -128°C (-223°F); rain 12 pm, -129°C (-225°F); rain 1 pm, -130°C (-227°F); rain 2 pm, -131°C (-229°F); rain 3 pm, -132°C (-231°F); rain 4 pm, -133°C (-233°F); rain 5 pm, -134°C (-235°F); rain 6 pm, -135°C (-237°F); rain 7 pm, -136°C (-239°F); rain 8 pm, -137°C (-241°F); rain 9 pm, -138°C (-243°F); rain 10 pm, -139°C (-245°F); rain 11 pm, -140°C (-247°F); rain 12 am, -141°C (-249°F); rain 1 am, -142°C (-251°F); rain 2 am, -143°C (-253°F); rain 3 am, -144°C (-255°F); rain 4 am, -145°C (-257°F); rain 5 am, -146°C (-259°F); rain 6 am, -147°C (-261°F); rain 7 am, -148°C (-263°F); rain 8 am, -149°C (-265°F); rain 9 am, -150°C (-267°F); rain 10 am, -151°C (-269°F); rain 11 am, -152°C (-271°F); rain 12 pm, -153°C (-273°F); rain 1 pm, -154°C (-275°F); rain 2 pm, -155°C (-277°F); rain 3 pm, -156°C (-279°F); rain 4 pm, -157°C (-281°F); rain 5 pm, -158°C (-283°F); rain 6 pm, -159°C (-285°F); rain 7 pm, -160°C (-287°F); rain 8 pm, -161°C (-289°F); rain 9 pm, -162°C (-291°F); rain 10 pm, -163°C (-293°F); rain 11 pm, -164°C (-295°F); rain 12 am, -16



## Foot backs case import controls is debut at EEC

By Fred Emery  
Washington, Nov 18

Mr. Foot, the British Minister for Economic Affairs, said today that his government would have no sympathy for import controls.

There were also warnings from Herr Hans Friderichs, the West German Economics Minister, and Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, vice-president of the EEC Commission, that resort to protectionist measures would invite retaliation and leave everyone poorer in the long run.

Mr. Foot and the trade union leaders also told the meeting that they hoped countries with strong balance of payments positions would take the lead in retaliatory action to stimulate world trade.

Britain's own position was limited, because of its large balance of payments deficit and high rate of inflation. Other speakers pointed out, however, that the rate of unemployment was below the Community average.

In his speech, Mr. Murray also called for an international code of practice to regulate the activities of multinational companies. He thought this could help prevent future Chrysler-type situations.

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## OVERSEAS Catholics raise queries on gold mines labour

By Desmond Quigley  
Financial Staff

representative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Westminster yesterday accused Mr. Donald McCall, chairman of Consolidated Gold Fields, of not having any clear company policy for the betterment of black employees in South Africa.

The criticism came from Mr. Bruce Kent after he had put a series of questions at the company's annual general meeting in London concerning black labour. He was representing the archdiocese's £30,000 investment in the company and attended at the specific request of the late Cardinal Hume.

After hearing Mr. McCall's replies, Mr. Kent claimed Mr. McCall had side-stepped every question. "He had a chance to give leadership, but he did not say how many, nor did it say when or precisely where the clash occurred."

In a statement on Sunday, defence headquarters said that 10 guerrillas and a South African soldier had been killed in a border clash the previous Tuesday. The guerrillas had been shot by a South African Army bivouac camp, it added.

Today's announcement, apparently referring to a later clash, said an Army captain and a soldier were killed by a landmine and two privates died "in a subsequent skirmish with Swapo terrorists. The terrorists were driven off, taking their dead and wounded with them."

Swapo forces, opposing South African rule in South-West Africa (Namibia), have stepped up their military activities in the northern border region with Angola while Angola's national army is warring among themselves.

South Africa has admitted that its troops have crossed the border to protect South African interests, particularly the important hydro-electric scheme on the Cunene river at Rucana. But it firmly refuses to comment on foreign reports that South African forces, including mechanized units, are taking an active part in the Angolan war.

Such reports may not be published in South Africa under terms of the Defence Act.

Mr. McCall considered the existing liaison committee of black workers in the mines to be more satisfactory than trade unions. "At this stage of evolution it is more satisfactory. It is the best thing they have got," he said.

A trade union needed stability and with a fast labour turnover a cohesive trade union movement would have its problems.

Mr. Kent is chaplain to Pax Christi, an international Roman Catholic peace movement. He said afterwards that he intended to go through the portfolio of investments held by the archdiocese and to try to ginger up any companies in which it had an interest where there were moral questions to be answered.

Financial news, page 26

## Unemployed teenagers turn to lawlessness

FBI records further increase in serious crime in United States

the greatest single war going on in the world at the moment. The property loss is put at \$2,800m. (£1,350m), although \$800m worth is stated as being recovered.

Greater emphasis is being given to the sharp rise in the number of teenagers arrested—up 15 per cent for boys under 18 and 21 per cent for girls. The under-18s in fact accounted for 27 per cent of all the arrests for serious crimes last year, a direct effect of the economic recession, although that factor is seldom mentioned.

The rate of unemployment among teenage blacks is now 37 per cent, and 17.8 per cent among white teenagers, compared with the national overall unemployment rate of 9 per cent.

If teenagers figure disproportionately in the arrests, the fact is that most criminals, except murderers, get away with it. The overall arrest rate for all "serious" crimes, starting with larceny, is about one in every five cases reported.

At present the rate of increase in serious crime appears to be slackening. Preliminary figures for the first six months of this year are some 12 per cent up on the same period in 1974.

It is safe to say that no one any longer claims to know what to do about it except to try to resume the drive towards general prosperity.

The problem of crime is immense, Mr. Edward Levi, the Attorney General said. "These final figures merely underscore what we already know... a coordinated national response by all segments of the criminal justice system and at all levels of society is vital if we are to bring this problem under control."

One problem is guns. Guns were the weapon in over two thirds of the murders, and 34 per cent of the murders were committed with hand guns. Yet President Ford, who has met loaded hand guns face to face twice in recent months, opposes all gun controls, except the narrow and worthless banning of the cheapest form of pistols.

In such a vast country only a nationwide ban on all firearms could be made to work. Opinion polls show a big majority now favours such a ban, but no leading politician except Senator Kennedy has dared to take up the cause against the arms industry lobby.

Supreme Court backs ruling on busing

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 18

The busing of children across city boundaries to the white-dominated schools of the suburbs has been upheld by the Supreme Court in a case that may further exacerbate feelings on the issue in the coming election year.

The proponents of busing say they are encouraged to renew the fight against incipient efforts in Congress to legislate new limits to busing. Professor William L. Taylor, who acted in the Supreme Court for black petitioners from Wilmington, Delaware, said: "The issue is alive and cases will turn on their merits."

The issue is crucial for many people. Many have fled cities to the suburbs hoping that the boundary separating their suburban county will protect their presumably better schools there. It is an issue of local jurisdiction and the Supreme Court ruling indicates that each case must be decided on its merits.

That in itself reawakens anxieties in a host of northern cities facing the issue of "cross busing." Many opponents of such busing had hoped that the Supreme Court's decision in the Detroit case last year against crossing the city boundaries, would prove a precedent. But in fact the court set a new and higher standard for proving racial discrimination.

In the Wilmington case the Supreme Court, with three "conservative judges" dissenting, confirmed a federal court ruling that the state law isolating the predominantly black Wilmington city school district was unconstitutional.

The court also found that the state was discriminating in public housing policies and in granting transport subsidies for white children attending private schools.

## S African troops killed in clash

Pretoria, Nov 18.—Three South African soldiers have been killed in the latest of a series of clashes in the Angola border area with guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), defence headquarters announced here today.

The statement said that a number of guerrillas were killed and wounded. It did not say how many, nor did it say when or precisely where the clash occurred.

In a statement on Sunday, defence headquarters said that 10 guerrillas and a South African soldier had been killed in a border clash the previous Tuesday. The guerrillas had been shot by a South African Army bivouac camp, it added.

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Financial news, page 26

Yugoslav court told of death blow in Britain

Belgrade, Nov 18.—Two Yugoslavs have admitted at their trial on a murder charge in a Yugoslav court that they attacked a self-exiled communist on a British farm with pitchforks and bottles, but blamed each other for the death blow.

The body of Mr. Caslav Spasic, who was 72 and was known locally as Charles, was found on August 30 beside his car at a farm near Bridge, Lincolnshire, where he lived and worked as an accountant.

Milorad Kusic, aged 21, and Predrag Bjelic, aged 22, told the court in Prokuplje, yesterday that they had beaten Mr. Spasic to rob him of £2,000, but denied that they intended to kill him.

Detective Chief Superintendent John Standish, head of Lincolnshire Criminal Investigation Department, was in Prokuplje when the men were arrested in September. There is no extradition from Yugoslavia of its own citizens.

Reuter.

## Supreme Court backs ruling on busing

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 18

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The issue is crucial for many people. Many have fled cities to the suburbs hoping that the boundary separating their suburban county will protect their presumably better schools there. It is an issue of local jurisdiction and the Supreme Court ruling indicates that each case must be decided on its merits.

That in itself reawakens anxieties in a host of northern cities facing the issue of "cross busing." Many opponents of such busing had hoped that the Supreme Court's decision in the Detroit case last year against crossing the city boundaries, would prove a precedent. But in fact the court set a new and higher standard for proving racial discrimination.

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## Split among Muslims new threat to Lebanon

From Paul Martin  
Beirut, Nov 18

The efforts of Mr. Karami, the Prime Minister, to strengthen the truce in Lebanon and regenerate lost confidence are faced with a new threat. It comes from the militant left in the Muslim camp which is opposed to the Prime Minister's conciliatory line on political reform.

Already this political discord has translated itself into renewed tension in the streets and an upsurge in the sporadic fighting which has continued despite the ceasefire. Indeed, the capital today spent its most troubled 24 hours in the past week of relative calm.

The left-wingers, led by Mr. Kamal Jumblatt, have accused Mr. Karami of retreating from the original Muslim demands for fundamental constitutional and political reforms. This followed Mr. Karami's explanation of his reform programme which, he said, would result in a "reinterpretation" of the constitution and not of "amendment."

This stand was praised by the Christian camp, unshaken in its determination not to relinquish its privileged position in the political arena. It has continued to oppose any revision of the unwritten national covenant of 1943 which gives the Christians a six-to-five advantage over the Muslim communities in Parliament and the public service.

Mr. Karami has not made public his reform plan and even the little he has "leaked" so far has been deliberately obscure. However, the left is suspicious that it will fall well short of their aspirations, which range from a new constitution which will take into account Muslim numerical superiority to a complete new order.

This divergence of views in the Muslim left-wing coalition has begun to cause concern among the left-wingers themselves and the Palestinian. Both groups realize that it would result in the emergence of two Muslim blocks: the traditionalists, as represented by Mr. Karami and other conservative leaders, and the novopositivists.

Such a division has long been regarded as inevitable. Whereas Mr. Karami's principal task is to prevent complete disaster, the left is prepared, and indeed determined, to pursue its struggle in the streets.

Although a split in Muslim ranks might be to the liking of the Phalangists and their supporters it is fraught with dangers. For instance, the inability of a man of Mr. Karami's stature to control the Muslim left raises the question of whether the power traditionally enjoyed by the conservative leadership has now been transferred to the radicals.

If this were the case, then a confrontation between left and right among Muslims could result in the last vestiges of restraint being silenced. Already it has become clear that the war, which has ravaged the streets for seven months, has made folk heroes of the gunmen and served to expose the growing impotence of the politicians.

Dr Waldheim to meet Mr Arafat

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, Nov 18

Dr Waldheim's optimism that the Syrian Government will extend the mandate of the United Nations force on the Golan Heights, if only for two months, is shared by officials in Jerusalem, though there has been no clear indication of willingness from Damascus.

The United Nations Secretary-General is leaving New York for a Middle East tour on Thursday. He is quoted by the newspaper Yediot Aharanot tonight as confirming that he will be meeting Mr. Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The report adds that Dr Waldheim yesterday met the Soviet delegate to the United Nations, who told him the Soviet Union would prefer him, rather than Dr Kissinger, to negotiate an extension of the Golan mandate.

Dr Waldheim is expected to go to Damascus first, then to Amman and Jerusalem and finally to Cairo to report progress to President Sadat. His stay in Israel is likely to be without much ceremony. He will be treated with due respect by the Government, but hostile demonstrations are likely in view of the vote on Zionism in the General Assembly.

Israel will welcome the renewal of the Golan mandate, but its leaders maintain that a renewal is as much in Syria's interest as Israel's and so Jerusalem should not be expected to provide any quid pro quo. Attempts to link it with territorial concessions will be discouraged.

There is no weakening of Israel's determination that no more than "cosmetic" changes, which do not involve the abandonment of any Israeli settlement, will be offered to achieve an interim agreement with Syria. Negotiations on a general peace agreement are ruled out so long as Syria insists on a parallel move on the Palestinian issue.

## Turks anxious for bilateral solution over Aegean

From Our Correspondent  
Ankara, Nov 18

The Turkish Government today handed a note to the Greek Ambassador in Ankara calling for bilateral talks aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Aegean continental shelf dispute between the two countries.

The document cited the successful Turkish-Greek talks on Aegean air space as "an example of the constructive and realistic approach Turkey would like to see adopted."

Turkey and Greece should first hold detailed discussions of all the problems that exist between them and solve those they can before going to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the Turkish note said, according to diplomatic sources.

It denied Greek claims that the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of the two countries had agreed in talks held respectively in Brussels and Rome, to take the matter directly before the international court.

British protest to Chile over Dr Cassidy

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr. E. Rowlands, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, made a strong protest to the Chilean Ambassador yesterday over the continued imprisonment of Dr Sheila Cassidy, a British medical practitioner.

Dr Cassidy, who has been working for the Chilean health service, was arrested on November 1 when the police raided a religious centre in Santiago where she was treating a sick man.

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## OVERSEAS

## Election prospects likely to force President Ford to withdraw his threatened veto on three Bills

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 18

President Ford must decide shortly what action he will take on Bills moving through Congress to extend oil price controls, continue tax reductions and grant government loan guarantees to New York City.

His decisions will have a profound impact on both the course of the economy in the year ahead, and on his own chances of winning the presidential election in 1976.

Mr Ford's position on each of these critical issues is well known. He has bluntly demanded that oil price controls be ended; he has repeatedly stated that he will veto legislation aimed at giving cash to New York City; and he has vowed to veto legislation extending tax cuts without offsetting cuts in public expenditure.

Confronted now with having to take decisions it seems probable that the President will veto himself and sign the measures that he has time and again threatened to veto.

His acceptance of the Bills

will undoubtedly produce new controversy on the right wing of the Republican Party and possibly enhance the chances of Mr Ronald Reagan in the party's presidential primaries. However, to veto the Bills could risk aborting the hoped-for economic recovery, add further fuel to inflation and endanger Mr Ford's chances of obtaining support from voters of all parties in the elections.

Recent public opinion polls have indicated that a growing number of Americans have come to appreciate the need for avoiding the bankruptcy of New York City. The polls are said to be influencing Mr Ford and he appears set to approve some sort of scheme to rescue New York at the eleventh hour.

The House ways and means committee has just completed a massive tax reform bill. It is too complex to be dealt with swiftly, but congressional action is vital in the next couple of weeks to ensure that income taxes do not rise by about \$15,000m (£7,150m) when the 1975 one-year temporary tax cuts expire on December 31.

Congress seems set to rush

ahead with a special bill, consisting of those parts of the big tax reform bill that involve extension of the 1975 cuts. The Democrats in Congress oppose Mr Ford's demand that tax cuts be matched by spending cuts.

Mr Ford will be confronted with the simple choice of signing or rejecting a Bill that extends the tax cuts. To veto it will be equal to raising taxes, which would be disastrous for him in an election year.

By signing the Bill will raise the size of the budget deficit and so dramatically weaken his effort to portray himself as the man who stands for balanced budgets.

Soon after becoming President in August last year Mr Ford believed United States oil output could only be increased by deregulating domestic oil prices and providing the oil companies with genuine profit incentives. He will now be confronted with a Bill which if he signs will mean breaking his promises to the oil industry and which if he vetoes could lead to sharply higher oil prices, thus boosting inflation in general and oil company profits in particular.

profits in particular.

## Austerity-age New Yorkers urged to model themselves on wartime Britain

From Peter Strafford  
New York, Nov 18

A recent article in New York magazine compared the city's financial crisis with that of Britain in 1940, and commented: "As in wartime London, we've got to help ourselves."

Not everyone takes such a dire view, but efforts are being made to arouse New Yorkers, and to draw on the volunteer spirit which is a feature of life here.

A newly-formed Citizens Committee for New York City has set itself up in a basement in Park Avenue. It takes the view that whether or not New York goes officially bankrupt, New Yorkers are still going to have to face an unpleasant time for some years, as services are cut or done away with.

The idea, therefore, is that New Yorkers will have to shoulder a number of new burdens to maintain certain standards of living. Mr Osborn Elliott, the committee chairman, speaks of community programmes to do such things as keeping libraries open, guarding street crossings for children, maintaining old people's centres, sweeping streets, and feeding zoo animals.

Mr Elliott, who is the editor-in-chief of *Newsweek*, describes himself as "a New Yorker for 51 years", the son and grandson of New Yorkers, with pride in the city. He has the backing of an impressive array of well-known names, ranging from Mrs John D. Rockefeller to Mrs Jacqueline Onassis to figures from the theatre, the universities and the unions.

They announced themselves recently in a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, proclaiming: "Everybody's against New York—except the people." Mr Elliott says that the response has been "fantastic".

In the first few days, the committee received about 3,000 letters from people who wanted to help.

The committee's offices are still showing all the signs of their impromptu beginning, and look more like an election campaign office than anything else. Someone has brought in a couple of old typewriters, and put them on a long wooden table. Newspaper cuttings are stuck on the walls, and there

is a long strip of brown paper with headlines and nothing else: parks, libraries, hospitals, museums, schools, sanitation, police.

However, Mr Dennis Allee, the executive director, says some ideas about how the volunteers can be fitted in. One way, he says, will be to take advantage of a number of volunteer groups that already exist; these provide auxiliary police officers, tutors for schools, clean-up people for parks, air emission inspectors, and supermarket investigators.

One potential source of trouble could obviously be the unions, who could feel that volunteers are moving in to fill jobs which their members have lost.

Mr Allee says that one of the purposes of the committee's campaign, is to avoid social disruption in New York as a result of cuts in services.

He is very critical of President Ford for his recent attacks on New York, and considers that Mr Ford has been "mis-stating the facts". What he said, he now needs federal help over the short term to get his house in order.

## Sir John's version of dismissal challenged

Sydney, Nov 18.—Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, was pelted with eggs and meat pies in Darwin today as Australia's election campaign took on a boisterous tone. None of the missiles hurled by Labour Party supporters hit the leader of the caretaker Liberal-Country Party coalition.

Mr Fraser's election address included a promise that Australia's Northern Territory would get statehood within five years if his party is returned to office in the December 13 elections.

The general election was called by Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, who dismissed Mr Fraser last week and appointed Mr Fraser to head the caretaker coalition.

Tonight, Sir John gave his public advice given him by Sir Garfield Barwick, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, the day before he dismissed Mr Fraser.

Sir Garfield said in the letter to the Governor-General that the Senate had the right to refuse to pass a money Bill. He also pointed out that a Prime Minister unable to ensure supply must either advise a general election or resign.

He said Sir John's constitutional duty would then be to invite the leader of the Opposition, if he could undertake to secure supply, to form a caretaker Government.

The letter referred to Sir John's request for advice "as to whether a course on which you had determined was consistent with your constitutional authority and duty". Observers in Canberra tonight claimed that this indicated a decision to dismiss Mr Whitlam before seeking the advice.

A report in the *Financial Review* claiming that Mr Maurice Byers, the Solicitor-General, had declared before the Whitlam Government was dismissed that such a move would be unconstitutional has embarrassed Sir John.

According to the newspaper, Mr Byers, a civil servant, gave an opinion that Sir John would have no constitutional authority to dissolve Parliament on the advice of the Liberal minority side of the House of Representatives. The opinion is understood to have been prepared by Mr Kep Enderby, the former Attorney-General, and Mr Byers, and given to Sir John on November 6, five days before he dismissed Mr Whitlam.

Meanwhile Patrick White, the Nobel prize-winning novelist, and other writers, artists, actors and academics headed a list of about 1,000 persons who signed a formal protest against Mr Whitlam's dismissal.—Reuter.

## Warren Commission accused of embarking on inquiry wishing to find that Lee Oswald acted alone

## New doubts about Kennedy killing

From Fred Emery  
Washington, Nov 18

A massive and potentially disturbing new book on the Warren Commission's investigation into the death of President Kennedy declares "categorically": "Nothing there has been told about the fact of the assassination itself was true."

The author, Mr Harold Weisberg, is an indefatigable pursuer not so much of conspiracy theories as of the facts hitherto withheld from the Warren Commission, and by it.

The book, entitled *Post Mortem*, devotes nearly 200 of its 650 pages to hitherto secret government documents and photographs. Mr Weisberg has obtained them through tireless and exemplarily use of the Freedom of Information Act, under which citizens can petition for official documents.

His principal contention is that the commission, set up by President Johnson and led by Chief Justice Earl Warren (including Mr Gerald R. Ford among its members) did not from the outset wish to depart from the established notion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in planning and carrying out the assassination.

Mr Weisberg quotes some very troubling comments by commission members about the unusual attempts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to present their conclusions on Oswald and their adamant insistence that there was no conspiracy without further exploring Oswald's links with Russia or indeed his links with the FBI itself.

The commission made it clear that they wanted this "speculation" by members kept secret and the transcript of their remarks destroyed. No mention was made in the Warren Commission's final report. Yet Mr Weisberg found them in stenographic note form at the National Archives, and was able to have them copied under the provisions of the Act.

Mr Weisberg further discloses that the Warren Commission never had the original documents and he publishes documents showing that one shot wound was much lower down the President's back than the neck wound incorrectly insisted upon by the Warren Commission.

There is much more. Mr Weisberg accuses a number of government officials of perjury, and challenges them to appear with him before a congressional inquiry. It is not clear whether Mr Weisberg himself will be called before the inquiry being reopened by Senator Richard Schweiker.

While the book may demolish the work of the commission more completely than ever, it is not clear what it achieves in its place. In the matter of conspiracy before the assassination Mr Weisberg will say only that there was an "aftermath whitewash", rather than a plan to kill.

However, we know from President Johnson's last television interview, disclosed long after his death, that he believed there must have been some connexion between Oswald and the assassin's Fidel Castro; and Mr Weisberg helps to establish that the official version will no longer wash.

He also shames the press, which under the Freedom of Information Act, grasped by the Act, ought to have been open to acquiring all the documents.

## Thais close Laos border after Mekong clash

Bangkok, Nov 18.—Thailand closed parts of its border with Laos today as Thai and Laotian forces clashed on the Mekong river.

A company of Thai troops was heading for the area, near the Laotian capital of Vientiane, to help the Navy to recover a patrol boat grounded on a sandbank by Father Lao shell-fire yesterday.

An Army commander said fighting was still going on this morning, but he did not think it would spread. "We just want to take back our ship for our own use," he added.

After a Cabinet meeting a spokesman said Thailand was closing the border in three districts, including the area just across the Mekong from Vientiane, and the situation returned to normal.

A Thai sailor was killed and three were wounded when Father Lao troops, firing from tanks and river patrol craft, grounded the boat yesterday.

The clash was the most serious since the Mekong since the pro-communist Father Lao took over in Vientiane six months ago.—Reuter.

## N Korea sends propaganda to the South by balloon

From Our Correspondent  
Hong Kong, Nov 18.—North Korea has launched a campaign of balloon-carried propaganda across the border, taking advantage of the seasonal winds, according to South Korean diplomats.

The psychological campaign is aimed at students, journalists and church representatives who have been critical of President Park's authoritarian rule. The campaign's theme is "Overthrow the fascist Government and American puppets."

Mr Lee Woo-Kyung, South Korea's Information Minister, has lodged an official protest against this "flagrant violation of international law" which the 1972 joint South-North communiqué, which banned propaganda drives by both sides.

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## 'Barefoot doctors' in China admonished

From David Bonavia  
Peking, Nov 18

The improvement of medical facilities for some 80 per cent of China's population is the latest matter of high policy to be hauled into the debate on how to achieve more rapid modernization.

The "barefoot doctors", one of the most glorified innovations of the Cultural Revolution, seem to have lost some of the romantic aura which surrounded them a few years ago. More conventional forms of medicine and public health in the rural areas are being promoted.

The subject has received an airing in the context of last month's high-level decision to make the Tachai production brigade a model for much more widespread emulation than at present.

A report from Tachai, published with a leading article in the national press, emphasizes the gradual improvement of medical facilities since 1949 through elimination of superstition and fatalism, improvement of housing conditions, vaccination and other measures.

Conventional tributes are paid to the barefoot doctors and their role in recent years, but they are by no means represented as the vanguard. The leading article refers to them as needing to be "educated", to make them take part in manual labour on the farms and to receive payment on the same basis as peasants.

Such a laconic admonition suggests a degree of dissatisfaction with the performance of these rudimentarily trained public health workers. Increased emphasis is being given to disease disposal and collective medical insurance schemes, which are in the pipeline of local party workers as much as medical specialists.

At the same time, there is a drive to persuade more trained doctors to leave the comfort of the cities and work at least for a few years in the countryside.

As a "product of the Cultural Revolution", the concept of barefoot doctors is still sacrosanct and doubtless it has performed a useful function. But when there is a proper hosotial on the commune with qualified doctors working in it, obviously peasants with these illnesses will want to go there.

The Tachai had been problems regarding the "attitude towards service" at the hospital of the commune to which their production brigade belongs.

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## Business to Business

## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

CENTRAIS ELÉTRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETRUSUL  
(Subsidiary of ELETRORBRAS)  
SALTO SANTIAGO  
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTPre-Qualification Notice  
to Suppliers of  
Bridge and Gantry Cranes

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A.—ELETRUSUL will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the Pre-Qualification to which this notice refers) for the design, manufacture, supply and erection supervision of the following equipment for the above-mentioned Project, situated on the Iguaçu River, State of Paraná, Brazil:

- three (3) Bridge Cranes of 200 tons each for the Powerhouse, complete with rails, accessories and electric buses;
- one (1) Gantry Crane of 125 tons for the Power Intake with rails and accessories;
- one (1) Gantry Crane of 25 tons for handling the draft tube gates, with rails and accessories;
- one (1) Gantry Crane of 60 tons.

For the payment of the above equipment, ELETRUSUL expects to have available funds from the Interamerican Development Bank—IDB through financing which is now being negotiated.

Participation in the present Pre-Qualification will be limited to manufacturers with headquarters in members countries of the Interamerican Development Bank and/or countries considered eligible by the financing agency.

The "Instructions for Pre-Qualification Proposals" will be available to the applicants until December 12, 1975, at the following address:

CENTRAIS ELÉTRICAS DO SUL DO BRASIL S.A.—ELETRUSUL  
DEPARTAMENTO DE SUPRIMENTOS  
Rua da Afafédega, 80-2º andar  
20.000—Rio de Janeiro—R.J.  
Telex 02122971  
Brazil

OFFERS ARE INVITED  
TO PURCHASE AS A  
GOING CONCERN  
CONTAINER TERMINAL  
IN HONG KONG

Located at Kwai Chung Lot No. 2, Tsuen Wan, with an area of 25 acres held on a tenancy expiring in 1997 and an additional yard of 10 acres held under short term tenancy from Hong Kong Government.

The terminal is operational, fully equipped and has long term users.

Offer closing time: Noon—15th January 1976  
Offers invited by: C. Ian McCabe/H. K. Poon  
Joint Receivers and Managers  
Kowloon Container Warehouse Co Ltd.  
(In Receivership)  
1530 Prince's Building,  
Hong Kong

Brochure obtainable from: Deloitte, Haskins, Sells, Shair & Co.  
Strand Building,  
Sixth Floor,  
Hamra Street,  
Beirut, Lebanon.

FURTHER PARTICULARS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE JOINT RECEIVERS AND MANAGERS.

## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

## NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY INTER-STATE SELECTION

1. General Information  
Section 106 of the Development of Southern New South Wales Act 1945 provides for the construction of a tunnel through the Blue Mountains for the purpose of providing a direct route for the transport of goods and passengers between the Sydney and Melbourne areas.

2. Information  
The tenderers are invited to submit proposals for the construction of the tunnel. The proposals should be submitted in accordance with the instructions contained in the tender documents.

3. Tender Documents  
The tender documents are available for inspection at the offices of the Joint Receivers and Managers. The documents contain all the information necessary for the preparation of a tender.

4. Submission of Tenders  
The tenders should be submitted in sealed envelopes to the Joint Receivers and Managers. The envelopes should be marked with the name of the tenderer and the word "Tender".

5. Opening of Tenders  
The tenders will be opened in public at the offices of the Joint Receivers and Managers. The opening will take place on the date and at the time specified in the tender documents.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

## SAND LIME BRICK PLANT FOR SALE

Presently operating, with a capacity of 10 million bricks per annum. The plant is situated on a 10-acre site in the Blue Mountains. The plant is in excellent condition and is ready for sale.

6. Terms of Sale  
The plant is being sold on a "as is" basis. The purchaser is responsible for all the costs of removal and installation.

7. Contact  
For further information, please contact the Joint Receivers and Managers. The contact details are given in the tender documents.

8. Closing Date  
The closing date for the sale of the plant is 15th January 1976. The closing time is noon.

9. Location  
The plant is situated on a 10-acre site in the Blue Mountains. The site is well suited for the production of sand lime bricks.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

## GENTLEMAN, 30, travelling Europe

Interested in a business opportunity in the travel industry. The gentleman is currently travelling Europe and is looking for a business partner who is interested in the travel industry.

10. Contact  
For further information, please contact the gentleman. The contact details are given in the advertisement.

11. Location  
The gentleman is currently travelling Europe. He is looking for a business partner who is interested in the travel industry.

12. Closing Date  
The closing date for the sale of the plant is 15th January 1976. The closing time is noon.

13. Location  
The plant is situated on a 10-acre site in the Blue Mountains. The site is well suited for the production of sand lime bricks.

## BUSINESS SERVICES

## LIMITED COMPANIES, JP Company

Registration and Co. Ltd. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 4







## THE ARTS

## Theatre, New York

## Songs by the mile

There is so much that is smashing about *A Musical Jubilee*, which has just opened at the St James Theatre, that the tiny things about it—almost entirely in conception—that are less than perfect may seem oddly nagging. For this bicentennial celebration of American theatre music is graced by six stars of genuine stature and all of them in magnificent form. It is amusing, heartwarming, and it has the best and certainly the most music of any show on Broadway.

It is one of those musical anthologies where the songs are not sold by the yard but by the mile. There are a few of the big hits, but mostly there are also many unexpected little hits, that you may remember with a happy and unexpected pleasure.

Moreover, these numbers—all of them—are performed with consummate skill and grace by in an order alphabetical out of sheer justice. Lillian Gish, Tamara Faria, Larry Kert, Patrice Munsel, John Raitt, Cyril Ritchard and Dick Shawn, and a gifted ensemble. With a cast like that you could almost bail out the Titanic.

The Broadway musical, while indigenous to these shores, is like many things American, a curious hybrid. It has been developed from such sources as the ballet, folk music, jazz, vaudeville, and the dramatic development of something usually long on tunes but short on plot. The musical itself is a collaborative art, involving some of the most profound scholars in the field, such as a concept must have seemed.

At some point it must have been decided to restrict the numbers to those written before the Second World War—in fact, the "youngest song in the show" is "You Go to My Head", which dates from 1938 and is not even theatre music. That could have been sensible, but the choices

made did not truly reveal what there is about the evening's grand artistic design.

There is music enow, both beautiful and sassy, and every one should have a good time, unless they have cloth ears, stone hearts and dead memories.

The staging is by Morton da Costa, who has gone to great pains to keep the show moving on different levels and at different paces, to stop it from resembling one of the sing-song finales so dear to the frozen spirit of the television special. For the most part he succeeds, and he is much helped by the enterprisingly interesting choreography by Robert Tucker (which has real style—here is a show choreographer of great promise) and the lighting by Thomas Skelton. The sets by Herbert Senn and Helen Pond looked as though they had been done on the cheap—which is a reflection on the producers—but costumes by Donald Brooks are marvellous.

What a joyous bunch of people this cast is. None is perhaps in his or her first youth—indeed a couple of them may be said to have sailed exultantly through their second—but their vitality is amazing. They are all superbly wonderful, physical shape that they come on as frisky as yearlings.

Kert, for example, ends one dance with a standing backward somersault, while, not to be outdone, Shawn concludes a touchingly funny soft-shoe routine of "Me and My Shadow" with a jolt on a tourney ending with a pirouette down to the knee. (I thought he might be interested to know what that step was called.)

Both Miss Grimes and Miss Munsel sing, act, dance and behave with charm, zest and glamour. Messrs Kert, Raitt and Shawn all have wonderful Broadway voices and personalities and know how to use them like searchlights. Ritchard is perky in his patter songs and wily charming in his comedy—and as for Miss Gish, it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to love anyone who did not love her. She glitters. So does the show—New York Times Service.

Clive Barnes

## Opera, San Francisco

## Rostropovich conducts The Queen of Spades

Three years ago Kurt Herbert Adler, general director of the San Francisco Opera, and his wife watched the May Day parade in Moscow with Miss Rostropovich and Galina Vishnevskaya. Back at the Rostropovichs' home afterwards, Adler learned that the great Soviet cellist was interested in conducting opera. He got him to promise, if and when he found himself free and in the West, he would conduct his first opera for San Francisco.

Last month the event finally took place—an uncut, Russian-language version of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. Music critics flew from across the country and abroad to report on the near-debut. *Die Fledermaus* at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna last summer was actually the first opera Rostropovich conducted outside Russia. He will do *Tosca* at Palermo in December with Vishnevskaya.

What the critics saw was a clean-looking, vulgarly mounted production (1963 sets by Wolfram Skalicki), conventionally staged by Michael Hadjilov from the Bulgarian State Opera. What they heard was a Vishnevskaya 26 years into her career, and sounding sadly past prime. The voice is still large and clear, at moments open-throated, velvety; but the highs can be shrill, the basic timbre unbrilliant, marred by breathlessness and missed notes.

One had high hopes for Lisa's great solo scene, her aria in the river Neva, just before the suicide. She was handsomely dressed, the stage for once directly set. I could see Rostropovich, halo of grey hair and flailing hands caught by the light, he was starting, pointing his baton directly at Vishnevskaya, as if trying to coax out a passionate, lyrical flow. But it never came.

Through Act I I wasn't at all certain of his conducting, either. But then Tchaikovsky doesn't offer a great deal of musical challenge in Act I—least not until the end, when Herman creeps back into Lisa's boudoir with his cry of "three cards!" At this point Rostropovich somehow persuaded his California violinists to believe in their romantic Russian sweeps.

Act II showed him in total,



Regina Resnik, Galina Vishnevskaya and Ryan Edwards (Herman)

intelligent, expressive control. But Rostropovich avoided the peaks and sloughs of exaggerated Tchaikovskianism, and found a clarity and purity of conception, profoundly moving and meticulously controlled. In the usually-cur Daphnis and Chloe, *masque* of Act II (Vishnevskaya sang Chloe as well), Rostropovich revealed the old Russian ballet master at his mock-Mozartian best.

The musical-dramatic high point of *The Queen of Spades* was reached later in the same act, in the "Memory" Aria of the ancient countess—another flawless creation of Regina Resnik's, half Miss Havisham, half monarch. Rostropovich underlined her still low, darkly moving reverie with a precision so exact one forgot there was an orchestra, and felt the music unconsciously as a pure expression of her thoughts.

An opera company director can have few nightmares to compare with learning that his star soprano has suddenly cancelled out of six sold-out

houses of Bellini's *Norma* on two weeks' notice. In place of Montserrat Caballé San Francisco got Rita Hunter and Christina Deutekom, for three performances each. Both could not fall to her knees, cannot write note of this fiendishly difficult role, and most of them well-off of itself an accomplishment worthy of praise. Miss Deutekom managed to achieve a slice of the dramatic potential as well, especially in the long and harrowing final scene. Miss Hunter, who was singing her first *Norma*, is more limited by physique. A woman of her soft, grandmotherly mien cannot raise a knife and suddenly drop it, cannot fall to her knees, cannot wheel round in scorn. Face, body, gesture can register nothing of the presence of Bellini's sublime donna.

With all credit to their heroic efforts, both hastily imported sopranos were outstaged and outclassed by the Adalgisa of Tatiana Troyanos, who could find a different emotion

for each stage of a descending trill; could listen to what others sang with her whole lovely body; could hold long spun notes, whisper-soft or bell-rung, along with an absolute purity. She dominated each of the great duets, and magnetized attention even when still, as only a real actress can. Had only she been singing this Adalgisa when Callas was still around to sing *Norma*!

The San Francisco season continues with a lackluster new *Werther* (Heather Harper, Clara Arago), and there is a splendid *Werther* (1975), a splendid new *Simon Boccanegra* (Te Kanawa, Wixell, Talvela, Merighi), and a new *Andrea Chénier* (Domingo, MacNeil, Joscia Lisa) that was muddled and tasteless until a strong Act II, when the three were designed as co-productions with other American opera companies: economic cooperation in times of distress.

David Littlejohn

## The tale of Timothy West

If for nothing else, this autumn will be remembered theatrically as the one when the Reps reached the West End: with Lindsay Anderson's *Lyric Theatre Company* already settled in Shaftesbury Avenue and in mid-rehearsal for their second production, this week brings Toby Robertson's *Prospect Company* to the Albery in *A Month in the Country* which opens tomorrow, to be followed a week later by *A Room with a View*, the two productions then being scheduled to play split weeks throughout the winter. Like the *Lyric Company*, *Prospect* was sponsored and presented in the West End by a commercial management, in this case Eddie Kulkundis's *Knightsbridge Productions*; like the *Lyric Company* they too are staging a classic in repertoire with a new play and have hopes of bringing a third production around February if all goes well and—again like the *Lyric*—*Prospect*'s troupe, headed by Dorothy Tutin, Timothy West, Derek Jacobi and June Lappore, comes from the class of actors who in happier times would have been found, and indeed were to be found, at either the National or the RSC.

But there the resemblance ends: for where the *Lyric Company* has been in existence for less than 12 weeks, *Prospect* has been around for more than 20 years. Ruffin, founded in the early 1950s by Robertson, Richard Cottle and Iain Macintosh from an amalgam of Oxford and Cambridge theatrical talent, *Prospect* has been touring the land almost exclusively in the theatre, and has, on other occasions, been the West End, most notably for the Ian McKellen *Richard III* and *Edward III* double at the Piccadilly in 1969. But this new season has a special significance: it represents a London show-window for *Prospect* at a time when they are being widely tipped as future occupants of the Old Vic once the National moves to the South Bank, and the fact that they've chosen two productions already tried and tested outside London (1967 *Edinburgh Festival*, 1974 *Edinburgh Festival*) suggests that they wish to be seen at their best rather than at their bravest.

But there's more to it than that, as Timothy West (who first joined the company in 1966 and is now an associate director, appearing in both plays as well as co-directing *A Room with a View*) explains:

"What we're doing here represents a considerable economic risk, not only for the actors who are on about half their normal West End rates but also for the management, so we had to be as sure as we could of choosing popular plays. Both in fact would have come into London after their original festival productions had it not been that numbers of the casts were committed elsewhere."

As an actor I've good reason to be grateful to *Prospect*: I tend to interfere an awful lot in what goes on around me, and Toby has now made that official

by letting me be his co-director; but I've a special affection for the company which would be there even if they only let me work as an actor. When I first joined them nearly 10 years ago I'd just left the RSC where I'd begun to notice that after *Alone*, *Sad*, my parts were getting smaller and smaller at that time there were certain actors the RSC pushed and others they didn't. I was one of the latter so I'd begun to look for a company where I could contribute rather more, and sure enough along came Toby with the offer of a season out tour with *Prospect*. I was due for a small part in *Madam, Said*, *Doctor Johnson* but then Peter Woodthorpe dropped out and I ended up playing Johnson himself as well as Prospero in *The Tempest*, which was a dramatic improvement on what I'd been getting at Stratford."

By that time West had already been in business for 10 years; the son of Lockwood West and Olive Carleton-Crowe, he was born in Bradford 41 years ago, and set out to be a recording engineer with EMI.

"My parents had been out of work a lot in my childhood and my father didn't seem all that eager for me to act, so for three years I pretended I didn't want to do it. I sold furniture and learnt how records were made but then I threw in my towel and joined *Our Town* which won one of the very early Sunday Times awards and that was it: I went to Wimbledon as an assistant stage manager on 13 a week and then I discovered that my father had always known I'd end up in the theatre like him."

With four children (three by his second and present wife, the actress Pruella Scales) and a large house in Wandsworth to support, West has gone to considerable trouble to remain almost constantly employed ever since.

"I suppose it's to do with my childhood, when being out of work was the greatest fear of the actors I knew. Even now I'd rather do three jobs simultaneously than miss the chance of contact with a director who might do me some good in the future. Besides, I don't really function if I'm out of work—I feel there's a bit of me missing."

As a result, within the last 12 months Timothy West (once named in the BBC radio poll as the 32nd most popular actor in *Mrs Dalloway*) has done the epic ITV *Edward VII* series as well as a lengthy world tour for the RSC playing Judge Brack to the Nedda Gabler of Glenda Jackson:

"That was a rather bumpy tour: we were marketed as a 'special' group within the RSC, assembled for just this one play, but the billing was pretty strange and by the time we reached Toronto all it said outside the theatre was

JUNE 5th-19th: GLENDA JACKSON  
So it did mean that we were playing to a fairly bemused audience, most of whom presumably thought they were coming to see a one-woman show. I suppose I haven't really spent the happiest time of my



life with the RSC, perhaps because I'm not terribly good at long-term contracts. The great joy of *Prospect* is that we assemble for the project in hand, which is usually no more than three or four months' work, and then we're free to disperse again until something else comes up. Also, I like the *Prospect* idea of very simple, bare staging which puts a great deal more weight on the actor than the kind of production where one overriding idea comes from the director and everything else then has to fit that."

West's lifelong desire to direct as well as act led him to form his own company at Billingham two years ago, a venture which can perhaps best be described as a qualified success: now, however, he's content to throw in his lot once again with *Prospect*, though he, too, is aware that this is a make-or-buy season for them.

"*Prospect* has been the best part of 10 years of my life, more in Toby's case, and we're none of us getting any younger with steady families. It's a harder and harder to tour, and *Prospect* is in danger of becoming an exercise in banging our heads against a brick wall. Our Arts Council grant is for touring, but you can't keep a really good company together without some regular West End exposure and we must eventually be in London under our own management. If we get the Vic, hopefully in harness with another touring company from the opera or ballet world, then we could alternate London seasons with our tours and keep our standards up. Otherwise, there's a limit to the amount of time you can work towards an idea without seeing it realized."

The future is, to say the least, uncertain, and that of the Old Vic still shrouded in a mixture of secrecy and doubt: but it should perhaps be noted that *Prospect* under its present Robertsonian administration could move into the Victorian Road financed by nothing more than their present grant and their own ability to raise cash at the box-office. Of how many other theatre companies can that currently be said?

Sheridan Morley

## Theo Angelopoulos: outstanding figure of new Greek cinema

It was appropriate that the panorama of "Aspects of a New Greek Cinema", presented as part of the Greek Month in London, started off with films by Michael Cacoyannis (Stella, 1955) and Nikos Koundouros (10 Drakos, 1956). Along with Giorgos Zavelas, these two directors were the first to break out of the firmly rooted traditions of a strictly local (though authentically primitive) national production of light comedies and heavy melodramas, to give Greek films a broader international vision and reputation.

Since then the Greek film industry has shared the fortunes of the nation, and had its own troubles to contend with as well. The last six years have seen a dramatic decline of the industry owing to the large-scale development of television. Between 1969 and 1973 cinema attendances shrank to less than half. Any minimal measures of government protection have been in defence of the established commercial production firms rather than in encouragement of new talents and new directions. A censorship code that has been in operation for 40 years was only more rigorously enforced under the dictatorship.

Yet Greece demonstrated, as Spain has done for over 20 years, that under repressive regimes it is often the cinema that provides, however oblique its forms of expression, a focus of progressive sentiment. Even though the excuse may have been a crime story (Angelopoulos's *Reconstruction*), in reality, satire (Panayiotis Voulgaris's *The Evangelist*), or the director's own desire to convey the atmosphere, if not the actuality, of political discontent and resistance.

History was one natural retreat of film-makers in the last days of the dictatorship. Tassos Papayannis's first feature film, *For Trivial Reasons*, looked back to 1930 and an attempt to establish a tobacco cooperative. At the same time, Tassos Kramirou's *Site of Ju Skull* (1972) reinterpreted the Passion, with Christ

seen as a working man and militant in the Greek hills.

The outstanding figure to emerge from the new Greek cinema is Theo Angelopoulos. His *Reconstruction* (1970) he went on to make *Days of '36* (1972), a cat-and-mouse story of the events that follow when a prisoner seizes as hostage a politician who visits him. Strongly influenced by Miklos Jancsó, it managed to support all the anxieties of 1936, with the shadow of the imminent Metaxas dictatorship already looming.

The *Travelling Players* (1975), the high point of the London Film Festival, confirms Angelopoulos as a major talent, and makes it clear that the outstanding figure to have come from the Greek cinema. (Ironically, the authorities would not send it as the official entry to Cannes, where it would have been the strongest contender for the Grand Prix.)

It is a panorama of Greek history from 1936 and the Metaxas dictatorship to 1952 and American domination of Greek politics, as reflected in the odyssey of a little troupe of actors who tour with a sentimental nineteenth-century melodrama, *William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar*. They never get to finish the play, and the tranquil sheep painted on the backcloth gave down upon generations of anguish and bloodshed. At another level these sad, shabby and often hungry people act out the Atreides myth.

Epic in scale, the film is also epic, in the Brechtian sense, in its treatment. The action is seen as a series of individual, often inexplicable events or tableaux with monologues, or slogans written on the walls, or songs for commentary. The passage of history reverberates in individual incidents or is summarized in a series of stylized scenes.

Angelopoulos's style uses a camera which is sometimes roaming and exploratory; sometimes static and reflective; and lengthy shots (there are only

80 individual shots in the whole film). *The Travelling Players* is a work which unfolds its secrets and its meanings gradually, along with its suspense, so that at the end of its four hours you are left eager to be told more.

For Greeks, the most remarkable breakthrough signalled by the film was that here for the first time the struggles of the outlawed communist resistance were discussed openly on the screen. (Communism was only legalized, after four decades, within the last year.)

Another new phenomenon which has followed the end of dictatorship is a movement of aggressive political documentary, and cinema vérité. Michael Cacoyannis's latest film, shown recently in London, was *Antia 74*, a moving account of the tragedy of the director's native Cyprus. The cameraman on that film was Sakis Maniatis, who is co-director with Giorgos Tsebelopoulos of *Megara*, which describes peasant reaction to the expropriation of their land for a petrol refinery, and their eventual Pyrrhic victory over the capitalists.

A late addition to the programme at the ICA, Nikos Koundouros's *Witnesses* was begun during the Ioannides regime, and records at length the events of the siege of the Athens Polytechnic, and the subsequent development of the student movement. A striking characteristic of this school of Greek political documentary is its ability to record actuality with the clarity and precision generally associated with feature production. A student demonstration has more drama than a Western shoot-out: the return to the mainland of the political prisoners produces a stunning emotional climax; the songs and choruses which seem to play a major part in Greek political demonstrations swell and surge with all the heady violence of music in a Jancsó film.

David Robinson

## Kurt Weill before Brecht

BBC Singers  
St John's

Paul Griffiths

To judge from Monday's attendance, the monthly concerts given by the BBC Singers are not widely known, which is a pity. The group is a fine, strong small chorus; it has an excellent conductor in John Poole; and its early evening programmes include music old and new, with a Bach motet to round off each concert. On this occasion it was *Fürchte dich nicht*, which had a firm performance, the men making sure that the music was fixed on a solid basis.

In four motets by Gabrieli Mr Poole and his singers seemed less sure of their aim. To a large extent it was a question of rhythm. Gabrieli, at least in the less grand works chosen for the programme, needs a touch of the dancer: the opening idea of *O Jesu mi dulcissime*, for example, can well take a graceful skip as it descends. Here, however, the step was plain, though the piece was saved by a clear projection of the words and a good response in their rapt intensity of adoration.

The novelty of the evening was Kurt Weill's *Recordare*, written in 1923 but unknown and unsung until 1971; Monday was only its second performance. Weill composed the piece when he was 23, some years before the alliance with Brecht, which produced by far his best-known works. Occasionally the *Recordare*

throws up a harmony recalling Mahagonny, and the use of ostinato in some sections seems significant with hindsight; but the work is a world away from the cabaret.

It is a thorough composition in an almost atonal style, with a plentifully varied "orchestration" of the voices. Weill rarely treats the lines as equal in importance; there are brief solo sections, passages where the voices move at different speeds, and other places where one part stands in some sort of relief. In the second half the four-part chorus is joined by a band of children's voices (here the boy chorists of St Paul's), softening the sour edge of a piece which seems to accept coolly the likelihood that the implications of the fifth chapter of Lamentations will not be heard.

## London debuts

The Vienna Flute Trio should really be written about in red ink, so different was their London debut from the usual run. That, of course, was scarcely surprising, since Wolfgang Schulz is first flute of the Vienna Philharmonic, while Heidi Litschauer and Helmut Deutsch, cellist and pianist respectively, are equally well known on their native soil as both players and teachers.

Over and above individual accomplishment it was the quality of their ensemble that made so outstanding an impression: balance and blend of tone could scarcely have been more finely judged. For this a great deal of the credit must go to Mr Deutsch at the piano. It was a delight to hear partnership of such subtlety from an instrument so easily too positive or negative. Haydn's G major trio was as limpid and sparkling as a brook. There was no less sensitivity in their phrasing of Weber's splendid, rarely heard trio, Op 63, though here the players at once warmed to its riper, more demonstrative romanticism.

For contrast there were also two duos. Even if in the "Trockne Blasen" variations for flute and piano Schubert for once put virtuosity before real music, Mr Schulz's liquid flow of notes, apparently achieved without the aid of such subtlety, was truly breathtaking. Miss Litschauer, rating purposeful characterization above mere bland tonal charm, made Prokofiev's late cello and piano sonata, Op 119, into a gripping musical adventure. But when playing the Anglo-Austrian Music Society, responsible for this enjoyable recital, could not provide more informative programmes instead of mere handbills nor even detailing movement headings.

The week's solitary pianist, Lawrence Schubert, came from America with a programme of contrasts between sonatas by Mozart and romantic favourites by Liszt. In both composers he seemed in need of a guiding hand to help him temper natural boldness with more restraint. He appreciated Liszt's love of the grand gesture, yet lacked the sheer aristocracy of style to express it persuasively. Tone too easily lost allurement above a certain dynamic level, especially in the E major Polonaise, while the over-elastic rubato in "St Francis of Paola walking on the waters" was scarcely commensurate with a strong, sure, saintly tread. But the intimate D flat Consolation was nicely phrased.

Excitement about this or that stroke of cunning in the fast movements of Mozart's K570 and K309 easily led him into over-emphatic point-making and there was also some unattractive fingering in the pursuit of emotion in slow movements (as also in the last few bars of K309, rather like a detached epilogue). But in K333 after the interval Mr Schubert sounded altogether more suave and relaxed: this performance showed what he could achieve as a Mozartian with a little more trust in the music's own powers of communication.

Ralph Davies, organist of St Mark's, and City of London, made his London debut on the organ presented in 1957 to St Bride's, Fleet Street, by Lord Astor, former owner of *The Times*. Shorter character pieces showed him at his most musically. But the church was ablaze with vibrant, strongly rhythmic sound in Murrill's "Carillon" and Francis's "Prière Héroïque", in turn cunningly prefaced, for contrast, by Gustav Hage's "Elegy in C minor" and Francis's "Elegy in D minor", in both of which Mr Davies demonstrated his own and the instrument's soothing evensong potential. Bach's G minor Fantasia and Fugue was clean in outline, though the organ's success seemed a bit plodding, while registration included something questionably edgy up at the top.

Joan Chissell

Emmy Verhey and Carlos Moerdijk, a Dutch duo, are in town playing all the Beethoven violin sonatas at the Purcell Room on Thursdays in November. Miss Verhey has appeared here as a soloist but not with her partner. Having temporarily lost clothes and music at Heathrow, they were not surprisingly rather tentative at their opening recital in Beethoven's first sonata—they are playing through the series in chronological order—but even here there were hints of Miss Verhey's qualities of pure line, sure intonation and honest musical sense. Here and in the second work of Op 12 she did not receive much help from Mr Moerdijk, whose phrasing was often four-square.

The interval seemed to have a marked steadying effect on the partnership, or was it that the E flat sonata of Op 12 and Op 23 are simply more rewarding and inspiring works to interpret? The meditative Adagio of the E flat work was the movement to do the trick, its intense musings well brought through in both instruments. In the A minor work the playing was still more expansive, catching the rhythmic drive of the first movement, the quickness of the Andante with its skittish fugue, and the originality of the finale. This reading promised well for the rest of the series.

Alan Blyth

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

## CINEMAS

WARNER WEST END, Leicester Square  
Telly Savalas, James Mason, Ron Moody, 10.30, 12.30, 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30  
1. *THE LAST DAYS OF PATTON* (1970)  
2. *THE LISTENERS* (1974)  
3. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
4. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
5. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
6. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
7. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
8. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
9. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)  
10. *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN* (1925)

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BARBARA HEPWORTH  
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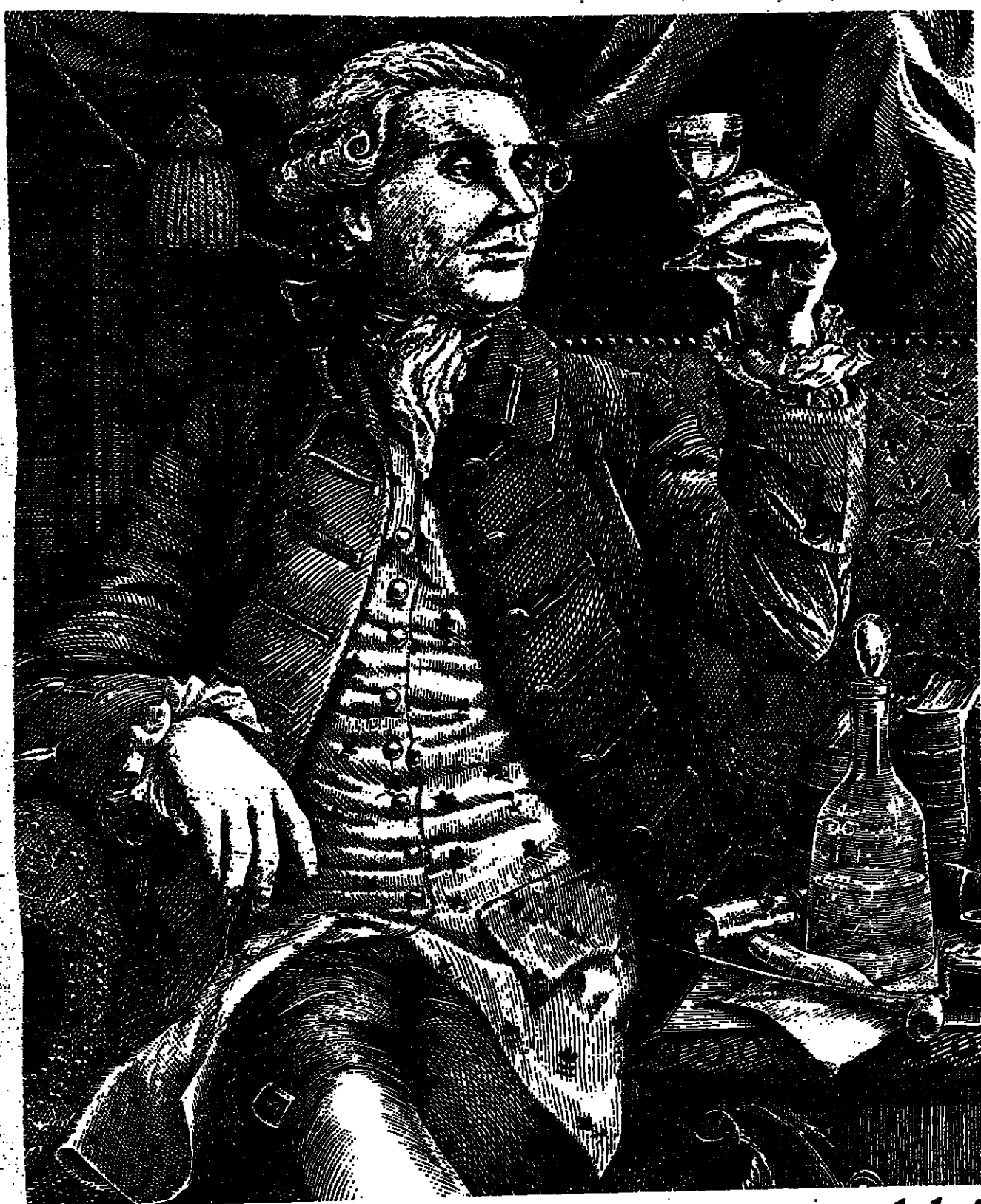






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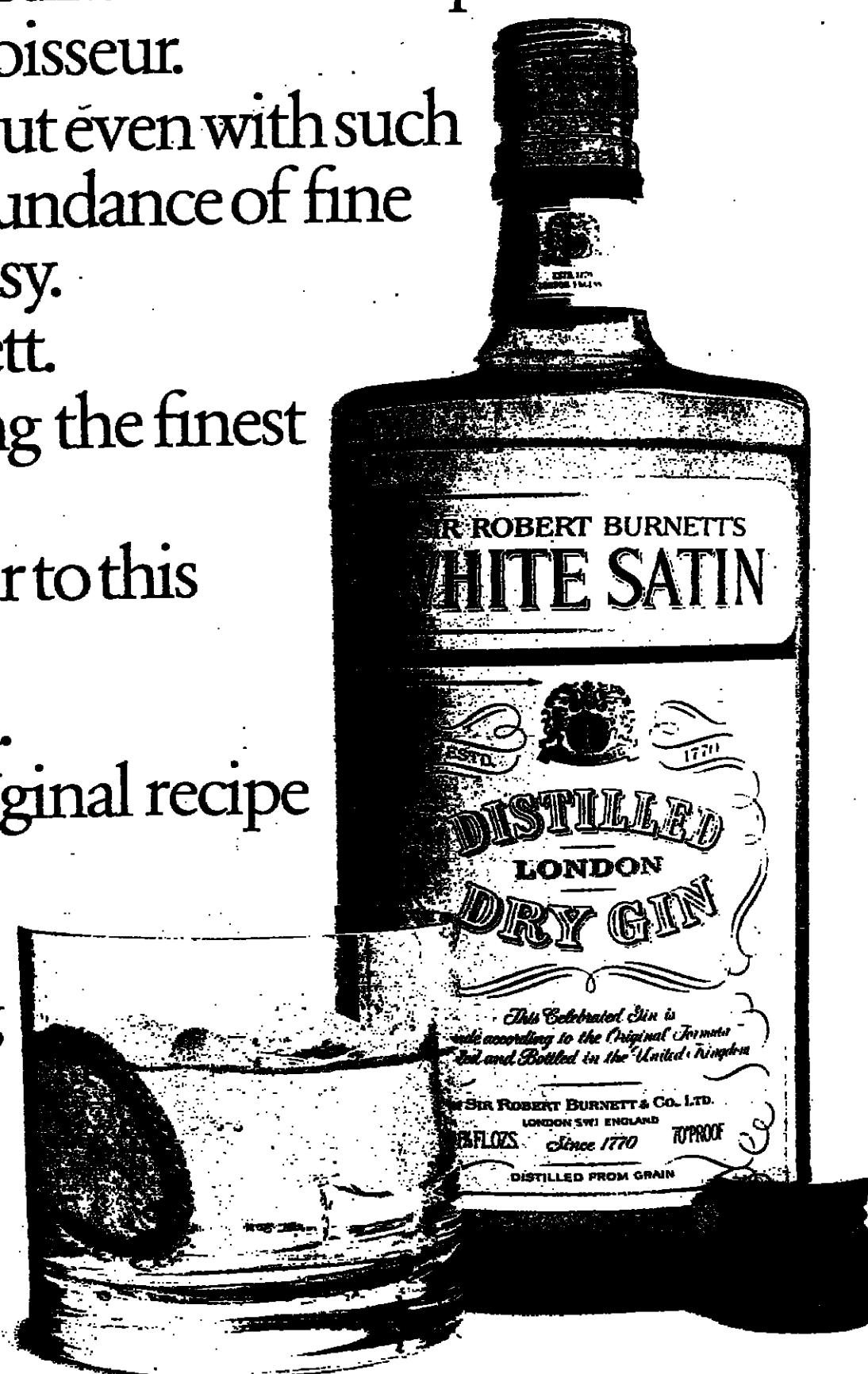
Via a bottle of Burnett's White Satin Gin.

In fact, we've faithfully adhered to his original recipe for nigh on 205 years.

If you taste it, you'll appreciate why.

Even if you do give it a good old dousing with tonic.

**Still made to the original recipe.**





Bernard Levin

# Soviet resistance: A harsh catalogue of suffering

The Amnesty report *Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR*, of which I gave an account yesterday, is the kind of document that almost defies quotation, because the journalist who wrote it has been so successful in his choice of words that he has made his case so clear that it is almost impossible to disagree with him. It is a book that should be read by everyone who is concerned with human rights, and it is a book that should be read by everyone who is concerned with the Soviet Union.

Next, for what may reasonably be expected by those who have followed the Soviet authorities for any action these days, the case of Jonah Kolchinsky, whose crime was an application for permission to emigrate.

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## Syndrome; not to be taken lightly

Continuing our occasional series on new words and new meanings

Syndrome is a popularized technicality, borrowed from medicine like chronic and hectic. It is now widely used to impress the reader with the thought that the man who uses such a word must be a very superior person, at home with the latest developments in medicine and psychology, or, at any rate, with the latest fashionable jargon of the two sciences.

It is a Greek word, meaning literally "a running together". In ancient Greek it was used to mean either a tumultuous course, or, by physicians such as Galen, a concurrence of symptoms. "The medical picture", modern doctors use it medically to describe a group of symptoms occurring together regularly, and thus constituting a disease to which some particular name is given. For instance, Korsakoff's Syndrome comprises a loss of appreciation of time and place, combined with incoherence, furnishing signs of alcoholic delirium.

Over the past 10 years, starting in the United States, the use of the word has been widely extended to take in a great variety of non-medical conditions. There are ugly examples recorded of people said to be suffering from a "syndrome" on the grounds that they will go about their mechanized horses, or a private enterprise syndrome, because on assuming office they found they are occupying a public office and not managing their private firms.

The trouble is that syndrome is such a recent metaphor that its medical origins are not dead but dormant. The word still reeks of the consulting room and the psychiatrist's couch. If you use it in a grossly incongruous context, as in a physical fitness syndrome, or a football fan syndrome, you shock its medical origins to grotesque lengths. If you write: "Mr A. F. Brown, a member of the West Wiltshire Council, suffering from a partisan political syndrome that may prove fatal", you can only be referring to death and disease, not metaphor. The wise man avoids the word outside medical or near-medical contexts, possibly by using some construction with the leader medical metaphor of symptoms.

Syndrome in English once, long ago, did have the non-medical meaning of a concurrence or set of concurrent things, as in grandiloquent, magnificent, St. Thomas Browne, who never used a word of three syllables if he could find an equivalent of four, wrote of a syndrome and co-occurrence of faculties. And another seventeenth-century author wrote: "A fine abusive phrase that deserves to be revived: 'A Farraginous Syndrome of Knaves and Fools'." This use has been obsolete, but it is in danger of being resurrected more horribly than Lazarus by the modern grave robbers.

The original and scholarly pronunciation of the word is as a trisyllable, just as epitome is still, in spite of occasional lapses by *The World At One*, pronounced as four syllables. But the attraction of such analogies as hippodrome and syndrome has proved irresistible to syndrome. And syndrome, in addition to being most unethically abused as a non-medical metaphor, is now generally mispronounced as a disyllable.

Philip Howard

## Political threat to Franco's heir

In a recent interview with the American magazine *Newsweek* Prince Juan Carlos declared that he was in favour of a democratic Spain but with lines drawn to exclude extremist groups and communists. The Communist Party, one of the strongest organized opposition groups in Spain, predicts that the life span of a Juan Carlos government will be measured in months, not years. It finds him completely unacceptable. It says it would accept him as a freely elected king, but as an imposed king he is seen as continuing the Franco regime. In spite of his statements on democracy, the communists doubt whether he will have sufficient power to carry through a programme of genuine liberalization against the opposition of the ultra-rightists. They think that the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and the Popular Socialist Party (PSP), headed by Tierno Galvan, will also be prohibited.

Spanish CP, the communists have already prepared plans for action during the transition, if, as is expected, Juan Carlos institutes even a minimal programme of democracy, the communists will immediately come into the open in spite of their illegal status. The communist leader, Senor Santiago Carrillo, and "La Pasionaria" Dolores Iberri, among others, will publicly return to Madrid. Official party headquarters will be established in Madrid, Bilbao, Barcelona as well as in other cities, and communist newspapers will be openly published.

Threat of widespread strikes

The CP's initial programme will consist in agitating by non-violent means (which does not exclude strikes) for three basic goals. These are the return of all political exiles, or at least those of the party, a general amnesty for all political prisoners, and the replacement of the state organizations in various sectors of Spanish political and economic life by their parallel democratic organizations. hitherto illegal—for example, the replacement of the official vertical trade unions by such clandestine labour organizations as the *Comisiones Obreras*.

However, the Spanish opposition is bitterly fragmented by personal intrigues, ideological and strategic differences, accumulated historical feuds and by the nature of clandestine politics itself. Alliances of any sort do not come easily. All attempts to form a united opposition have failed. Conflicts arising from the CP's key position in the Spanish democratic Junta, which also includes groups such as the Liberal Monarchists and the Spanish Workers' Party (PTE), produced the formation of the Democratic Platform of Convergence, which has loosely joined the uncommitted allies as the Carlists, PSOE, and ORI and MCE, both of which are Marxist.

The Spanish communists appear confident. In the words of the central committee member referred to earlier, the CP has demonstrated that it, and only it, has the solutions to the problems of Spanish capitalist society. Everyone knows that serious problems exist. The CP will convince by example.

With winter upon us, there is nothing like some old-fashioned royal pageantry and consequent traffic chaos to give that warm glow which helps us survive until spring. This week there are two days of it—the royal yesterday of President Nyere of Tanzania, and the state opening of Parliament today.

I arrived early at Victoria Station, in time to see them ripping the plastic covering off the car that will carry the presidential entrance. On the Night Ferry platform—decorated with white drapes and poinsettias and the Tanzanian coat of arms—a genial, cuddly policeman ushered me on to a blue raised podium which was quite empty. I have remarked before how there seems to be a strategic reserve of genial policemen for use only on royal occasions.

By noon the podium was filling up. The sun made everyone somewhat more cheerful and Ronald Allison, the Queen's tall press officer whom I had just met in Jamaica, beamed as he asked me: "Do you want to know what the Queen's wearing?" "Shan't I see?" I inquired. "But you might not know what you're seeing," he retorted, and handed me a duplicated sheet announcing that the clothes were a cream wool coat lined with beaver, and a round beaver hat with an appropriately a cream crown. For myself, I had on my grey turtleneck sweater, recently cleaned, and an oblong fake lamb-wool hat, sitting slightly in the middle. Both of us, I thought, were reasonably radiant, she more so.



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## Party humbug over electoral reform

With enough public pressure both parties will give manifesto pledges that will be frank and forthright but not quite watertight

The Conservative and Labour parties are, of course, wholeheartedly in favour of the fairest, practicable electoral system for Britain. In principle, regarded as one of the more moderate and independent communist parties in Europe. It leads heavily on the example of the CP in Italy. What the historic compromise is to the Italians, the "strategy of alliance" is to the Spaniards. The Spanish CP argues that political life in Spain must be built on a broad spectrum of parties which would represent the political interests of all social classes. In this party panorama, the CP, by means of its "strategy of alliance", hopes to play a leading role.

However, the Spanish opposition is bitterly fragmented by personal intrigues, ideological and strategic differences, accumulated historical feuds and by the nature of clandestine politics itself. Alliances of any sort do not come easily. All attempts to form a united opposition have failed. Conflicts arising from the CP's key position in the Spanish democratic Junta, which also includes groups such as the Liberal Monarchists and the Spanish Workers' Party (PTE), produced the formation of the Democratic Platform of Convergence, which has loosely joined the uncommitted allies as the Carlists, PSOE, and ORI and MCE, both of which are Marxist.

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Commission/Party Conference.

2. "Yes, but we have no mandate for electoral reform."

3. "Yes, but we have no mandate for a referendum."

4. "Yes, but nobody agrees on which kind of reform."

5. "Yes, but there is no parliamentary time available."

steal the Liberals' clothes. For one thing, on this issue it is not possible to steal the Liberal Party's clothes without presenting it with an entire wardrobe in exchange. Thus the Labour and Tory parties will always calculate accurately enough that they suffer less by opposing reform and losing votes than by supporting it and losing the present voting system.

They may sound cynical, but then it is only sensible to assume that on electoral reform these parties will act solely to protect their own interest, that they will show bad faith, a complete lack of honesty, and a total indifference to arguments about fairness, democracy and the national interest. As so many of them say so often, politics is about power; and electoral reform will largely destroy their political power. So the reformers' best strategy will be to greet any official Labour or Tory statements in favour of electoral reform with total disbelief.

They were warm-blooded, he said, was proved by analysis of their bone sections. The dinosaur *Scratchomimus*, he went on, was identical to the ostrich in every respect save that it had a long tail, long arms and three-fingered hands instead of feathers.

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Marianne Heiberg

Commission/Party Conference.

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ties of a massive Russian presence in Luanda should reassure us. Giving. If they are true, the victory of the Peoples Republic of Angola, led by Dr Neto and run by the MPLA, now has Cuban and sophisticated Russian military aircraft which only the Russians could operate. It looks as if the Russians will not let the MPLA lose the civil war, but the likely outcome—before any accommodation is reached—between the two liberation fronts, FNLA and Unita, will be jointly set up the new Republic of Angola. As the Russians have always been friendly to the Peoples Republic of Angola, it is not surprising that they will be inclined to crush its rival, which is not so far removed from their own powers. The Russians have miscalculated it is so easy to do in civil wars. When Soviet troops reach the MPLA by various routes, the controlled virtually the centre of the central area of all the ports, the railway and the industrial and installations, including important coastal oil rigs. The Russians must have seemed to the Angolans that they were the winning side, which was the correct Marxian strategy in destroying the tribalistic government of the parties under Portuguese colonialism, and seizing control of the capital before the end. But the other side has recovered from their defeat, and obtaining out of their turn, have made a comeback. The present position is therefore if the Russians honour

their commitment to the Peoples Republic, they will have to reconquer for the MPLA all the gains which the FNLA-Unita forces, and statesmen and mercenaries have made since mid-October, and then go on presumably to eradicate FNLA and Unita in the rest of the country, which the Portuguese did not manage to do. Even without foreign aid to the "Democratic Republic" this would be a big and bloody job, though the Russians have the sheer power.

However, the FNLA and Unita are being backed, and would not give in easily. Zaire, always the headquarters of FNLA, will not allow it to be destroyed, for the Bakongo people are on both sides of the frontier. Zaire's efforts have the backing of China which attributes the civil war to the rivalry of the two superpowers and particularly to the crude and unsungisited interference of the "Soviet Union". Zaire evidently passed on to the FNLA American and Chinese arms, but now the Americans show signs of withdrawing their assistance, perhaps in the interests of détente. The "Democratic Republic of Angola" however has aid in men and material from South Africa (and perhaps Rhodesia), besides support from Zaire and Zambia. Zambia's vital interest is the Benguela Railway whose control Unita is in process of wresting from the MPLA. For lack of this outlet, Zambia is in need to deliver copper, is becoming dependent once again on the routes through Rhodesia, Botswana and South Africa.

Thus the line up is complex, with two rival Marxists taking sides. Mozambique at a safe

distance and the Congo Republic which abuts on Cabinda, take the MPLA side. A Zaïre-Congo-Brazzaville confrontation is thus a second possibility. Western powers lie in stability whoever rules Angola, but a Russian grip on Luanda and Lobito would be a disaster comparable to the grip on Somalia on the east coast of Africa.

The prospect is worse than it was in the ex-Belgian Congo in the sixties, or during the Nigerian civil war, because there is no legal government, internationally recognized as successor to the colonial authority, in Angola. If the Democratic Republic can survive, it can set up a government in the part of Angola it controls with as much authority as the Luanda government. The issue is not the suppression of a secessionist Katanga or Biafra. In Angola—failing an agreement—the prospect is for a prolonged war, with each side claiming full legitimacy.

A prolonged war can only be a disaster for the Angolan people, who have suffered enough. It would be wise to seek means of holding an international conference through the OAU and the United Nations of the Angolan disputants, and their backers, to work out a new solution even if this means a temporary de facto division of the country between the two claimant governments. This ought to be accompanied by a self denying ordinance among outside powers not to intervene further. It would be specific, as the Congo precedent may suggest, but the alternative, to say Mr Vorster's adjective, is rhapsody.

SW election results are encouraging development of union movement as in recent months there is in effect a left-wing on the union's national committee, with left and moderates having members each and Mr. Canlon exercising the vote as president. From January of next month there will be a four-three split for the moderates. This reflected in the elections for level so it is reasonable not just of one or exceptional results but of a in the balance of forces the second largest union body.

Immediate practical effect is to increase consideration of Government's chances of acceptance of the £5 through the difficult ahead. It may also serve the nerve of ministers when it would be all for them to lose their but there are also benefits from the size of the polls the claims that have led for postal ballots. In elections were conducted meetings a poll

of 12 per cent was considered a good turn-out. On this occasion the two elections for seats on the national executive committee produced polls of 37 and 38 per cent respectively, and the polls for the other elections varied from 27 to 45 per cent. This must be welcome to those who believe in the widest democratic participation in running trade unions. It strengthens the argument for insisting that all union elections above a certain level should be by postal ballot and, if necessary, for providing public money to ensure that this is possible.

But the most important consequence of these elections in the long run could be their effect on the balance of power within the Labour movement as a whole. This depended traditionally on a tacit alliance between the leadership of the parliamentary party and the big unions, symbolized by the partnership between Atlee and Ernest Bevin. It continued after them until it began to break down when Mr Frank Cousins came to power in the Transport and General Workers' Union. The old order seemed to have collapsed completely when authority in the two largest unions, the TGWU and the AUEW, was represented by those

demon figures, Jones and Scanlon. Together they appeared to personify the domination by the left of the trade union movement and the party.

Yet today Mr Jones stands shoulder to shoulder with ministers as the stalwart defender of their incomes policy—or rather of his incomes policy which seemed to them so moderate that they took it over—and Mr Scanlon is in imminent danger of becoming the captive of his own executive. This amounts to the restoration of Labour's traditional pattern of power. It was evident at the party conference in Blackpool and has been confirmed now by the AUEW elections. The new alignment may well be severely tested by the economic strains of the coming months. But it should provide the necessary encouragement for those Labour politicians, ministers and others who have hesitated to support realistic policies because of what they supposed was the overbearing might of extremist pressures. Once they are mobilized the forces of moderation are more powerful than many people imagine within the trade unions as well as among the public at large.

it is as much evidence as of militancy, the Junior Hospital poll must put the pro-leaders under strong to endorse further next week. Whatever he, many of the doctors already limiting their work can be expected to their action, and they bably be joined by The British Medical n are in danger of d into an extreme by the same fear of unflanked by more doctors' organizations uenced them in the is' dispute last year. y recall how little was that action and how n was dominated ad to hospital routine t hesitate before com themselves to a similar

ior doctors have much feel hard done by. New should have been intro month to take better f the inordinately long many of them went July incomes policy the not considered it politic- sible to allow the sum e whole body of junior rise, after the 30 per ce they were awarded. e rest of the profes ril. The two alternative that the Government for putting in place new nts and other firms

diately both breach the designedly inflexible dictates of the policy but nevertheless mean that some individuals would earn less than they had reason to hope, either at once or as soon as they changed jobs (at the outset of their careers junior staff change jobs every year, and unlike consultants they cannot stay where they are until they can find a post whose rewards satisfy them).

Of course, they are not the only group who have been disappointed of reasonable expectations by the intervention of the J.M.S. measures, nor the least well off in pay and prospects. Their challenge is bound to be warched by other workers and if it succeeds it will be used as a precedent. The policy is of such importance to the fortunes of the country that any breach, however well deserved, would be a matter of serious danger.

Even if it succeeds completely, the rate of wage increase in Britain will still be substantially higher than in most of our economic competitors.

The long hours of junior staff are not directly relevant to the issue of sanctions. Perhaps no category of worker is required to put in such long hours of heavy responsibility. But those who entered the profession knowing that this was the position of junior staff has improved greatly in recent years—so much so, in fact, that the once glittering target of consultant status has now lost

much of its lustre. To reorganize hospital routine so as to reduce the individual workload would mean a major revision of the career structure for which the profession is far from ready. One point at least has clearly emerged from the poll, that is, that the section of junior opinion that had misgivings about the whole concept of a closed contract with the major overridng element is not in the majority; but the implications of this for the consultants have not yet been fully appreciated.

Many doctors (including many of the juniors themselves) still have the deepest misgivings about reconciling industrial action with their professional responsibilities. Sanctions endorsed by the EMA could not fail to be divisive, and would throw serious doubts on consultants and general practitioners. For some patients the consequences would be likely to be tragic. It is not possible in practice to draw a dividing line between urgent and non-urgent cases, and ailments that seem unimportant before full investigation can soon become serious with great throw-backs. It is true that the inflexible, doctrinaire approach of the Government towards the affairs of the health service, and about their large share of the blame for its present disarray, the patients in hospital today are not to blame, and the present dispute involves no issue so extreme as to justify sacrificing their interests.

From Mr L. C. Gane  
Sir, Mr Roy Ray, in his article on  
November 8, wonders to what height  
a Virginia creeper can attain. The  
one springing from a single gigantic  
root to the top of the tower of the  
University Press Pitt Building in  
Trumpington Street here must  
greatly overtop the Admiralty spec-  
imen and perhaps qualify for the  
record in height and may be in  
anguish at it all.  
Yours faithfully,  
L. C. GANE,  
2 Pemberton Place,  
Cambridge.  
November 8.

From *La Haislam of St Marylebone*, CH, FRSL

Sir, Dr Edmund Marshall's statements in your current number (November 17) are so very misleading that I feel constrained to state your position in order to state the true position as I conceive it to be.

(1) I refer first to Dr Marshall's reference to the House of Lords' "defiance" (sic) of the Government. (2) That the two Houses of Parliament. Although drawn from the majority party in the elected House, the Government is responsible to both. The Government cannot be guilty of defiance of Parliament. But, yes.

(2) I assume that Dr Marshall really intended to accuse the House of Lords of "defiance" of the House of Commons. But, if so this is equally false. The law as amended in 1949 provides a fall-back method of resolving differences between the two Houses. This method will operate, by I believe, January if the Government pursue their announced policy. The period of the second period I believe is 12 months from the date of the second reading in the Commons last session, which, unless I am mistaken, was a date in December 1974.

(3) In fact the House of Lords

emerges from the consideration that members of the House of Commons are not delegates. If they had been, the results of the divisions might well have been different.

(b) There is, as well as dangers in constitutions in which there are two democratically elected second chambers, as can currently be seen in Australia, no one defends the composition of the present House of Lords. But it is, at present, our only safeguard between elections against elective dictatorship. No doubt, if it challenged the executive by using its powers in such a way as to frustrate the purpose of executive government, or to prevent the passage of legislation effectively only if passed before a given date, the Government would have some cause to complain. When the only effect of their suspensory veto is to postpone the passage of legislation containing an objectionable item from November to January, to describe this action as "defiance of anything or anybody," is only to display the ignorance to which some members of the Labour Party including, it seems, Dr Marshall, are animated by a dictatorial desire to have their own way in everything.

Yours, etc,  
**HAILESLAM.**  
House of Lords.  
20 FEBRUARY 17.

Where now stands this consensus? The Labour Government was forced to retreat even before legislation. The Conservatives legislated, but were defeated by the determination of the unions to resist the implementation of most of the provisions of the Act and not to cooperate with the court. The propagandists skillfully exploited the weaknesses in the Act and the more moderate members of the court because, upholding the rule of law, it heard actions against trade unions which refused to appear. This publicity did not highlight the fact that individualists had lost a large number of unfair dismissal cases heard speedily, informally, sympathetically and expertly. So a climate was created in which a government was enabled—some will say forced—to legislate by reference to the principle alone; what the individual unions considered to be in their own interests. Thus, the unfair dismissal provisions are retained; safeguards to the public, and individual unionists, against unionism have been removed; and union power is further strengthened.

Parliament thus enacts precisely the opposite of what successive governments have each considered necessary. The outcry is muted, or concentrated on a single line of argument, and the arguable, cogent reasons can be said that legislation

short notice a great mass of legislation, not all of it well digested or even discussed at all in the House of Commons, much of it controverted and much untabulated to the majority of the House of Lords. This it has done at very great personal inconvenience. Only on one issue, which concerns the freedom of the press, have the Lords left their seats to discuss the matter under the Parliament Act. To accuse the House of Lords of "defiance" because they refused to alter their opinion on a single matter of importance, in the knowledge that the Government and their opportunity to enact their will in to carry about four months' time, is to throw absurdity to the very threshold of mendacity.

(4) The House of Lords is not a body of men, but of their positive constituents like members of the House of Commons. The House is not, and never has been, geared to day to day attendance by every member as is the Commons, since the House is not intended to be the business of the House in their capacity as individual counsellors of the Crown when they think they have a contribution to make. The majority consisted of peers of all ranks and of all cross benches. They do not know of any who are elected with the minority that was not a committed (and whipped) member of the Labour Party.

(5) Dr Marshall bases his calculations on the voting in his own House of Lords, and on the votes of those who voted for a particular party at the last general election approve of their vote on every particular issue on which their representative went to the House. Everyone is aware that this assumption is in fact false. That it is false even in the

From Mr Robert Alexander. QC Sir, It is timely to consider, as you do in your editorial "An Issue of Jobs and Justice" (November 13), the extent to which the industrial relations legislation of this Government threatens other freedoms as fundamental as those of the press, including, as you recognize, those of trade unionists.

Within only the last decade, governments of different complexions have independently decided that the improvement in industrial relations demanded not merely exhortation, or codes of practice, but some legislative intervention and safeguards. The proposals of the Labour Government in 1963 were strongly similar to those of the Conservative Government of 1970. One of the most notable commonly agreed advances was protection against unfair dismissal, removing the archaism by which an employee could be dismissed on spurious or arbitrary reasons simply on payment of wages corresponding to his contractual length of notice. A list of other basically agreed measures include the right to belong, or not to belong, to a trade union; the means for resolving recognition disputes; conciliation pauses or "cooling-off" periods and ballots in some circumstances when strike action was threatened; the creation of a Commission on Industrial Relations; no longer an independent, judicial Industrial Board (Labour), and National Industrial Relations Court (Conservative). In addition the Conservatives sought to prevent previously closed shops and of the more damaging consequences of unofficial strikes.

affecting fundamentally the rights demands a greater popular consensus than has been available more recently. It is therefore doubly desirable to engage in confrontation with a movement whose history of moderation since it attained a position of dominance is remarkable. Yet past and present cooperation in the industrial field, however great, should not create a false security. We cannot guarantee that trade union leadership will always be moderate and, in any event, isolated, unhappy incidents may even in the future occur in organizations.

Against such risks everyone—the affected public, and trade unionists—have the right to the protection of the law. This protection is at present being seriously eroded, and fundamental rights may be denied. The repeal of Section 5 of the 1974 Act is but an example. As you point out, an appeal against exclusion from a union is to lie only to a system seriously biased in its own test. I would quote: "It is right and healthy in a democracy that any powerful body should be subject to outside scrutiny where abuse of its power can most harm the individual."

The source: In Place of Strife when, in addition to proposing internal reforms within unions, the Labour Government of 1969 proposed that a right of complaint by individuals against arbitrary action by trade unions resulting in substantial injustice should be referred to an Industrial Board consisting of a legal chairman and two lay members.

Yours faithfully,  
**ROBERT ALEXANDER,**  
1 Brick Court, Temple, EC4.  
November 18.

**From Sir Alex Smith**

Sir, The fact that recruitment to some polytechnic courses is low, as you report on November 15, is a symptom of a more significant problem for the future health of industry in this country.

The significance of the report is not so much that there is inefficiency in the way that the whole of higher education is organized, which results in too many courses in too many institutions. I am quite sure that that inefficiency can be reduced when the need to do so is fully realized, but a better management system is designed. Even so, the situation is not so bad as one might deduce from your report.

The real matter for concern is the implication for the future well-being of industry. The Government have just made a statement on industrial strategy, in the foreword of which it states that "while we tackle immediate problems, we must also get to grips with the long term weakness of British industry". The paragraph goes on to refer to the relationship between education and industry, yet therein lies the most fundamental weakness of British industry.

There is an anti-industry attitude prevalent in our society, and the shortage of young people opting to do engineering and technology is a symptom of that malaise. The situa-

From the Chairman of the London Boroughs Association

Sir, I read with great interest Sir Reg Goodwin's article (November 3) about the role of the Greater London Council. He is surely right to oppose the swallowing up of London into some vast south-east regional authority stretching from the Solent to the Wash, and to call for the devolution to the local boroughs of the services now controlled by impersonal undemocratic ad hoc authorities.

So far as London is concerned this need not be only to the GLC. The London boroughs would be the appropriate authority for the provision of health, authority functions, and would gladly resume their former responsibilities for local sewers, most of which they are still in any case continuing to operate on behalf of the famous "big authority." The boroughs would also warmly welcome Sir Reg's suggestion for the devolution from the GLC of that council's remaining responsibilities for housing management, provided that this were on the right financial terms.

Mr Laybourn (*The Times*, November 17) is quite wrong in suggesting that pensions increases for civil servants and for other public service pensioners have passed unnoticed. The attack on the (income tax) Acts of 1971 and 1972 was launched as long ago as July of this year by Sir Geoffrey Howe, who apparently found it convenient to ignore the fact that the legislation was planned and proposed by the Government of which he was a distinguished member. The attack has been continued ever since, although the facts are that the average pension increase he received was 10% effect from December 1971. For retired teachers, nurses, policemen, firemen and members of the armed forces, as well as civil servants, wages amount to about 53.50 per week, and the average increase for this group will be about 14 per cent. This increase will be about 14 per cent.

Out of a total of more than a million retired public servants, some 300,000 are former civil servants. Of these only 75 will, when this year's pension increases are received, receive a pension exceeding £8,500. All of them will be senior civil servants who, throughout a lifetime of ser-

our provision—in professional and social education—we are inundated with applications, and we have about 5,500 more students than we ought to have: the accommodation is about 110 per cent full.

That is not all that bad a match between judgment of what the community needs from education and estimates of what young people will choose, and I hope that these figures will restore a sense of perspective. If the railways and airlines could predict demands for their services and run them so that they were over 80 per cent full,

for more able people to embark on industrial careers is fundamentally right: the fact that there are some people who are not suitable students means that our institutions are at least trying various ventures—and nothing venture, nothing gain. What is wrong is the set of social and educational circumstances which discourages young people from taking these opportunities. We must all get to grips with that weakness.

Yours faithfully,  
**A. M. SMITH,**  
Director of Manchester Polytechnic  
and Chairman of the Committee of  
Directors of Polytechnics,  
309 Regent Street, W1.

**From Mr. James O'Shea**  
Sir, David Wood claims that research assistants are "backbench bottle-washers" who use the library of the House of Commons to justify their role. In fact they are permitted to use the library for only eight hours in each week of a Parliamentary session. During my own time as a research assistant I needed to use the library infrequently, and never observed it to be overcrowded with other assistants.

### Travel restriction

*From Professor E. H. S. Burhop, FRS*

Sir, You say in relation to Dr Sakharov (leader, November 13) that it is "monstrous and incredible that the state should assume the right to decide whether anybody should be allowed to board an aircraft to Oslo". On July 22, 1951, I was due to board a plane to Moscow as a member of a large delegation from

would be impossible, and improper, for them to assess the mass of available information in the light of each member's political interests and constituency business. The research assistant should concentrate on information not available to those who must spend much of their time within the Palace of Westminster.

Research assistants are not a symptom of the "pretensions of backbenchers" but rather of the pretensions of central government. In most constituencies the research assistants are the only people concerned to see their member challenge. Assistants who fail to contribute to this end are unlikely to be employed for long.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES O'SHEA,  
New College,  
Oxford.

November 10.

Britain organized by the Society for Cultural Relations. On the previous day, the British Legation received a letter from the Foreign Office: "I have to inform you that passport No 30772 issued to you on the 19th April, 1941, has been cancelled and should be returned forthwith to this Department. An addressed envelope on which postage need not be prepaid is enclosed herewith for that purpose."

I cannot recall *The Times* writing a sub-leader in my support at the time of the attack on my passport reaction due to some difference between a plane to Oslo and one to Moscow? Or is it a laudable conception of the spirit of Helsinki?

Yours faithfully,  
E. R. S. BURHOPE.  
Department of Physics and  
Astronomy,  
University College London,  
Gower Street, WC1E  
November 14.

London Boroughs Association,  
Westminster City Hall,  
Victoria Street, SW1.

### Dismissal of Mr. Whitlam.

From Mr K. H. Jeffery

Sir, A more precise and recent parallel to Sir John Kerr's dismissal

**From Mr Selby Whittingham**  
Sir, The National Gallery, you report (November 11), claims that it is risky to bring together all the masterpieces of one artist under one roof. This covert attack on the idea of a Turner gallery is misleading. Many of the masterpieces of the Turner are not in the Turner bequest. And the Turner Society advocates, not that the bequest should be exhibited in its entirety simultaneously, but that the larger part of the collection should be loaned to other parts of Britain. The opponents of a Turner Gallery will only ensure that the huge display planned by the Tate Gallery will not burn in isolation.

of Mr Whitlam than any of those cited in Mr Philip Howard's article (November 12) is the dismissal of his Prime Minister by the Governor-General of South Africa in 1939, when the leader of the opposition (General Smuts) was asked to form an alternative government pending an early general election. The election result confirmed the country's preference for Smuts as Prime Minister. The Governor-General's action was thereby vindicated and his wisdom proved. Yours faithfully,  
**KRITH H. JEFFERY.**  
27 Campden Hill Towers, W11.  
November 17.

has given one reason among many why the desire to concentrate the cream of all available old masters in one gallery—its own—is misguided.

Yours faithfully,  
SELBY WHITTINGHAM, Hon  
Secretary,  
The Turner Society,  
153 Cromwell Road, SW5.  
November 12.

**Cats and dogs**  
*From Mr Leonard Brown*  
Sir, I see (November 17) that Dr Campbell deemed the Praefector's cat to be a firearm—a mauser, presumably?  
Yours faithfully,  
**LEONARD BROWN,**  
99 Theobald Street,  
Borehamwood,  
Hertfordshire.  
November 17.







# International construction

## Export fever is fuelled by oil

by Cornelius Murphy

occupation with market opportunities in the British industry is a reasonably sized manufacturer of materials has some involvement in the process opening up recently: "If we measure modernization in terms of services then there is a gap of 50 years separating Saudi Arabia from the western world. We have to close that gap in no more than 10 years".

The ability to implement these schemes will depend very much on developing the indigenous administrative and technical ability to cope, and there is no doubt that firms and consortia bidding for the business will be looked on more favourably if they are able to offer training programmes. But whether or not the scale or envisaged projects is over-ambitious, the potential is certainly there to keep most of the construction companies in the West busy until the end of the century.

The demand from the Opec countries has stimulated an increasing awareness within Britain that we have much to offer, for example, in the way of consultancy skills, low-cost housing techniques, manufacturing technology and project management. And even outside the demand for new service and building programmes is increasing rapidly, motivated by rising expectations among the populations of under-developed countries, and financed by revalued mineral wealth or more usually funds provided by such agencies as the World Bank or the European or American development aid funds.

British consultants and contractors last year contributed £200m more to the balance of payments. And new contracts won by building and civil engineering firms reached a record £980m. Although Middle East countries accounted for £477m of the total, there was a hefty increase in Europe (£161m) and in North and South America, where new contracts rose by £18m to £72m.

Building materials exports too are, on the face of it, showing a buoyant trend. Figures for the first half of 1975 are about £300m for the year compared with £231m for 1974. Here again the spread is very wide indeed; construction steel is by far the largest element



Working on concrete which has been poured into a Stabitt mould during construction of Port Rashid in the United Arab Emirates. Stabitts are used to break up the force of waves on breakwaters.

(£73m in 1974) and our best customers were the Irish Republic, France and Belgium (£17.4m in 1974) were distributed evenly among exports and overseas working that some had looked for.

Even the Far East has come under close inspection as a potential market for our construction exporters. A British Overseas Trade Board survey last year identified Hong Kong and Singapore as potential markets for advanced building products, particularly in the residential and commercial sector with Indonesia and the Philippines having the greatest potential for the future.

Nevertheless it is essentially the new markets in the Middle East that have raised the searching questions about the ability of the British construction industry and its associated professions to meet today's needs. Indeed there is evidence that our share of the total market is now falling, itself an indication that the traditional fragmentation within building construction is coming home to roost.

There are the usual criticisms of lack of support from government posts overseas, the tardiness of information leads through the embassies, and so on, some of which are justified. In this new situation, the traditional channels tend to be too slow and not finely enough tuned. But the overriding challenge lies with the industry itself, to abandon its time-honoured traditions of operating as a series of separate sectors, and instead develop a coordinated approach in the face of the over-riding priority.

There are various ways in which this can operate. British groups have been known to be in fierce competition with each other for projects in a way in which it would be unheard of, for

## Fearless policy now possible

by Patrick O'Leary

The Export Credits Guarantee Department says it offers two main benefits to exporters: "First, in insuring them against the risks of non-payment it enables them to pursue a bolder marketing policy—taking on new buyers and breaking into new markets without fear of crippling loss."

"Secondly, ECGD support for export finance, by enhancing exporters' liquidity, can help exporters offer competitive terms and win contracts they might otherwise lose."

Set up in 1919, the department draws its money from the Treasury and operates under the Department of Trade. Work has increased steadily, and according to Mr Eric Deakin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of Trade, exports insured rose by 36 per cent to reach £6,535m during the year ended in March.

The scope of the protection offered has grown, as well as the volume of business transacted. In addition to normal insurance, war risks and expropriation are covered. Guarantees can be offered to banks, who in turn provide money to exporters; many overseas construction contracts are financed in this way.

Often the only way to obtain business in East Europe and the Middle East.

Where inflation forces up costs, the contractor is expected to meet the first 10 per cent, with ECGD covering the next 10 or 15 per cent, and the firm meeting anything above that. This scheme has been described as inadequate by some industrialists, on the ground that the Government is being too optimistic in believing cost inflation can be limited to 25 per cent.

But the routine work of guaranteeing bank loans to assist firms with overseas construction contracts continues undisturbed. Last month the South Wales company of P. Leiner received £3.6m backing to supply a gelatin manufacturing plant to Poland.

The ECGD guaranteed a loan of £2.8m in July to help finance a Liberian government contract. The contract was awarded to Cubitts International for the design and construction of a conference centre at Monrovia, where the annual heads of state conference of the Organisation of African Unity is to be held in 1977.

Other cases this year of British overseas projects receiving help have included provision of desalination plants for Qatar, a loading jetty for a Peruvian marine terminal, a sugar factory for El Salvador, and an acrylic plant in the Republic of Ireland which required a £9m loan.

The risks covered by ECGD policies include insolvency of the buyer; government action which blocks transfer of sterling to Britain; war between the country concerned and Britain; and revolution in that country.

The policy-holder is required to retain some interest in the transaction, so in normal circumstances the ECGD covers only 90 per cent of any loss due to insolvency or default by the buyer, and up to 95 per cent of loss through other causes. Premium rates are fixed on an assessment of the risk involved, on a non-profit making basis.

Where contractors undertake construction engineering work overseas involving a large element of services, such as those provided by consultant engineers, architects and surveyors, combined with supply of materials, a standard form of cover has been devised. This construction policy conforms to the standard contracts employed in the industry.

In addition to its London headquarters, the department has regional offices in Glasgow, Belfast and several provincial cities where officials can advise firms undertaking work abroad. Although it is a government department, ECGD emphasizes that it operates as a business, and about 90 per cent of its activities are carried out on a purely commercial basis.

Even where business cannot be justified on this basis and it is done as a public service in the national interest, the aim is to balance income and outgoings over the years. This means it sometimes turns down applications for guarantees for contracts in countries where it considers the political or economic risks are too high.

Such decisions are unpopular with businessmen who see large contracts going to rivals from countries with more generous paymasters. But the ECGD claims it keeps a continuous watch on developments in some 180 markets, supplemented by reports from British diplomats overseas.

Government guarantees have been attacked as a form of economic nationalism. Mr Robert Fell, who was with the department before becoming chief executive of the Stock Exchange, told a London conference on the International Credit War in June that he thought export credit had reached a dangerous stage.

He suggested that the solution was international control through the Berné Union, a body concerned with credit and investment insurance. The ECGD was a founder member of the union. Both the European Economic Community and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development are also studying ways and means of preventing cut-throat competition between exporting nations.

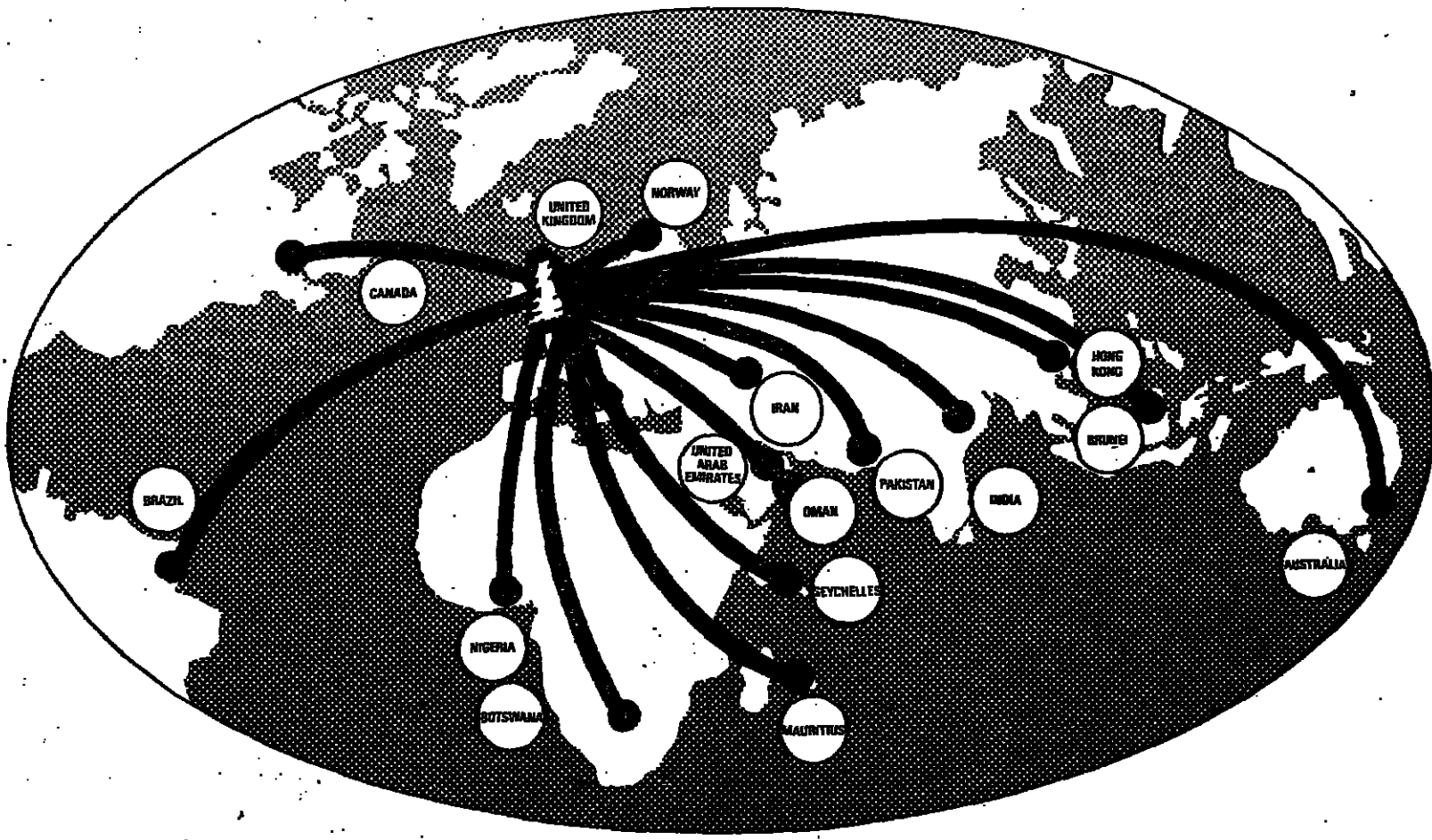
## Balance income and outgoings

## Bonds issued by bank

In May for the first time the ECGD went into the business of backing contract performance bonds. In this case the bonds were issued by National Westminster Bank as security for the performance of a £46m contract to construct a highway in Iran awarded to Marples Ridgway.

Extension of ECGD support for such bonds was announced in February by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary for Trade. Demand for this kind of guarantee may increase, judging from some background noises made about Britain's ability to deliver the goods heard during last month's Saudi Arabian mission to London.

Another innovation this year has been the introduction of a cost escalation insurance scheme. This is to help firms which undertake projects on fixed prices,



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Mr. Peter Stephenson will join Finance at the Forestry Commission on January 1 in succession to Mr. P. Nicholls.

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# Company alliances extend their scope

by Geoffrey Trimble

When a British contractor operates overseas it is usually because the overseas country cannot handle the job itself. There is a tendency, therefore, for the contractors to range in size from large to very large. There is also greater uncertainty about the conditions under which the contract will be undertaken.

Moreover additional costs are associated with the process of ascertaining what these conditions are. For example, reliable information is necessary on customs and import regulations, on duty payable on the temporary import of plant, on the ease with which profits can be repatriated and the promptness with which the client is likely to honour certificates. There are in fact a host of points of this nature which are crucial to success in overseas markets.

All these factors make consortia working economically for the contractor and therefore the client. A small group of contractors working together can pool their assets, in terms of financial and physical resources and in terms of expert knowledge and this can make the very big job feasible. The grouping also has the effect of sharing the risk and avoiding duplication in the assembly of vital commercial information.

George Wimpey and John Laing have been running a joint venture in Saudi Arabia for some years and this partnership in the Middle East has recently been extended to Iran.

Another important partnership in the Middle East is the Costain-Taylor Woodrow joint venture building the Dubai dry dock. Costain and Tarmac have linked recently with Arab contractors to build a road tunnel under the Suez Canal.

Not only is there increasing evidence of joint working between top British contracting firms for export contracts. Resources required to construct massive oil platforms for the North Sea has prompted a number of new partnerships such as Mowlem-Taylor Woodrow for the Condeep gravity platform.

A recent development in the export markets is the growth of multinational consortia. An outstanding

example of this is the Majes Consortium in which Tarmac Construction, Skanska Cementgjuteriet (Sweden), Concor Construction (South Africa), Entrecanales y Tavora (Spain), and Foundation Company of Canada have joined to undertake the first phase of a big irrigation project in Peru.

A rather different type of grouping, combining the resources of three old-established Italian civil engineering enterprises, is Impregilo which specializes in construction of large dams. This group, more close-knit than a consortium, keeps a close watch on developments of this nature all over the world and by careful deployment of resources and specialist services keeps its men and equipment in steady demand.

There is a difference, however, between joint ventures which often have a formal structure and consortium arrangements embodying alliances formed to undertake a particular job. This kind of alliance is often highly successful in overseas work and yet does not bind the parties to any further commitment after completion of the project for which it was formed.

The risks in overseas work should not be underrated and contractors normally press hard for cost plus contracts, or at least for target price contracts. They will also seek terms of payment which guarantee a positive cash flow and when this can be achieved their position is obviously very satisfactory in financial terms.

There are a number of overseas countries, however, which insist on competitive pricing even in conditions of considerable uncertainty. Iraq is one such country and there fixed price contracts have been entered into for package deal contracts. The costs have in some cases so far exceeded estimates that the contractors have decided that it is best to cut their losses and abandon the contract. Fortunately there are no records of British contractors in this predicament.

However, the competitive situation is obviously one in which very considerable care needs to be exercised. The arguments itemized in favour of consortia are even stronger in the case of competitive contracts. Moreover there is the additional argument that consortium groupings will reduce the number of competitors and thus keep competition within reasonable limits.

The contract for the Baghdad

University of Technology is a good example of excessive competition. In this case the number of British bids was substantial in itself and considerably greater than the number of bids from all the competing countries. There is a grave risk in these circumstances that a British contractor will get the contract at a loss-making price.

Mathematically it can be shown that the dangers of excess competition depend on two factors—the number of contractors and the inaccuracy of estimating. The greater uncertainties of overseas work must engender greater inaccuracies in estimating. For this reason even greater care needs to be taken to minimize risk, or allow for it by increased margins, in the overseas context.

## High record of success

Thus the prudence of most contractors in seeking cost plus and target price contracts for overseas work is underlined. It is fortunate that the success in achieving this form of contract is quite high despite the apparent advantages for the client of competitive bidding.

The case for consortia of British contractors for overseas work is overwhelming, not only as a means of reducing damaging competition and pooling resources, but also as a means of improving the ability to offer design and construction jointly. An obvious overseas market for British contractors exists in the oil-producing countries of the Middle East.

Yet these countries seldom have indigenous consulting firms big enough to tackle international projects. This means that they must import both design skill and construction. To the clients' organizations in such countries the package deal, or design construct contract, has very great advantages.

They have only one organization to deal with and they can negotiate a price in terms of the performance required of the completed project. This is not to say that all such contracts work well and the case of contractors abandoning partly completed contracts, cited above, illustrates the difficulties.

It is encouraging to see that consortia are developing between some British consultants and contractors to enable their skills to be

combined. For example, Costain and Tarmac have recently formed an association with Sir William Hall and Partners for the design and construction of the Suez tunnel. Far more desirable and just as valuable would be growth in the number of consortia of contractors. The official British attitude favours these consortia and deplores the situation of several British contractors competing for the same overseas contract.

While in theory it is easy to advocate cooperation between contractors it is less easy to achieve it. Contractors are so used to competing that cooperation is often felt to be unnatural. Moreover if a consortium is established for one project only, there is a considerable penalty to pay in terms of the cost of the learning process as parts of the organizations merge. There is therefore a case for permanent consortia specializing in particular areas of the world. The case of Wimpey and Laing's work in Saudi Arabia is a particularly good example of such an approach.

As a valuable service to consortia and to individual contractors it would be useful if the work of the associations of contractors could be intensified. One particularly valuable task which could be undertaken on a cooperative basis is market research. Valuable information is already obtainable from the Department of Trade but there can scarcely be too much readily accessible, properly classified and indexed, up-to-date inside information about the conditions which apply to each individual project.

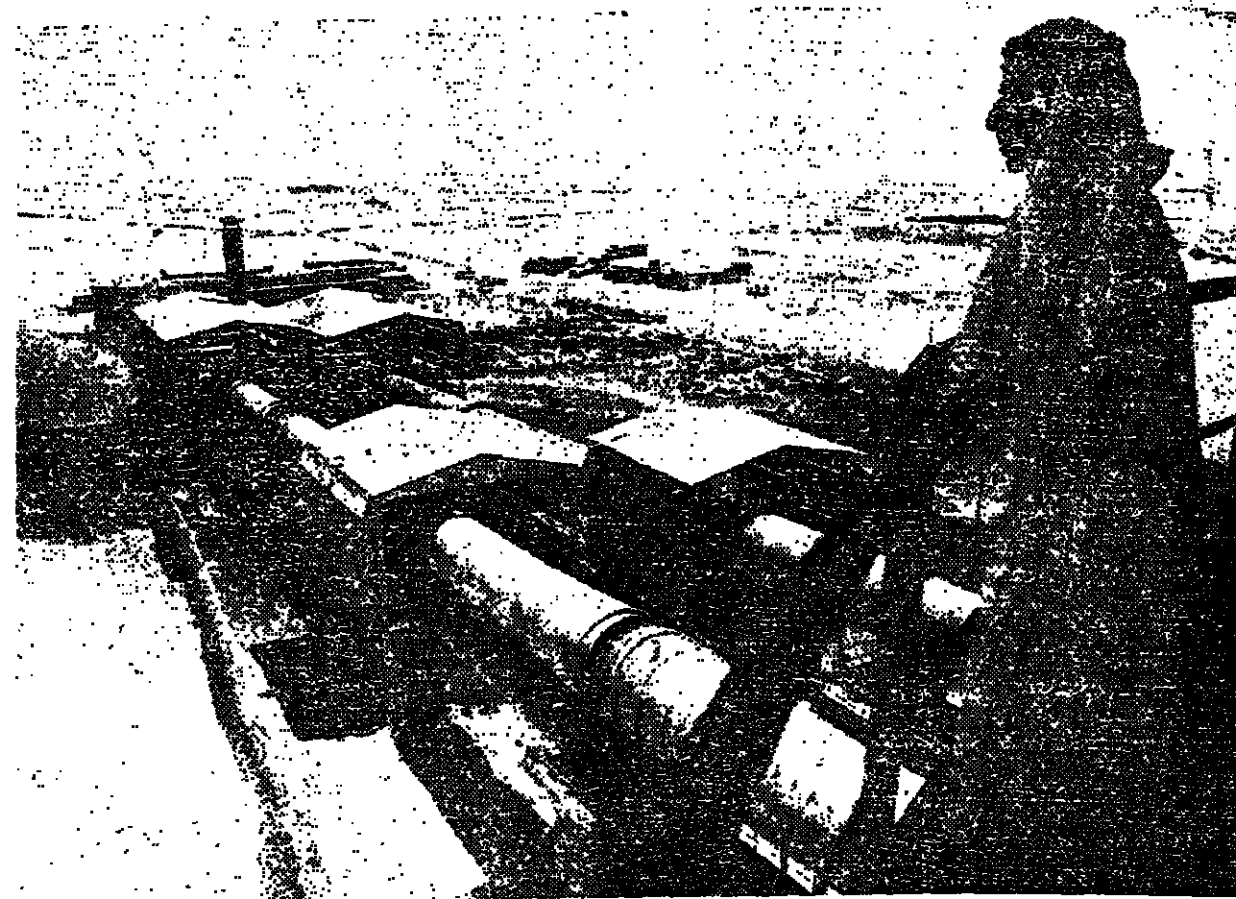
To assist in assembling resources to bid for overseas opportunities, the Department of the Environment is examining the possibility of setting up a construction exports advisory board. This intention was announced by the Minister of Housing and Local Government (the industry's sponsoring minister) in the summer but so far nothing more has been heard.

The industry already has its own trade association, the Export Group for the Construction Industries, and it may well be that action to strengthen this organization would be equally effective as setting up a new body.

The author is Professor of Construction Management, University of Technology, Loughborough.

# World demand stretches consultants' skills

by W. S. Atkins



A cement production complex in Qatar—an example of the widespread overseas commitments of the consulting engineer.

British consulting engineers are at present engaged in worldwide engineering projects collectively approaching a capital value of £7,000m. It is estimated that their earnings this year will approach £150m—a very creditable slice of the country's invisible exports.

The practice of transporting British civil engineering and construction experience overseas began about 180 years ago to meet the sudden and large-scale development of India. Immense works, particularly those connected with irrigation, resulted in a scarcity of engineers for several decades. Today a big problem for engineering consultants is the worldwide shortage of experienced engineers.

One reason for this is a subtle change in the nature of the client-consultant relationship. The time has passed when most work relating to an overseas commission was done in the United Kingdom. Clients in the developing countries now desire close collaboration with their own engineers and planners at as many stages of a project as possible—making for a transfer of skill and knowledge between our experienced engineers and their graduates.

Another reason is the rapid and universal increase in the size and complexity of projects. It is not that the output of suitable people from the universities is inadequate; the crucial thing is the time taken for a useful graduate to become an experienced engineer.

Figures suggest that some 45 to 50 per cent of all United Kingdom consultants' fees is derived from work overseas; the greater part of which is being carried out by 20 or so of the larger practices with a staff of 250 or more.

Large-scale consulting practices—establishments with a staff of more than 1,000—are a postwar development. The market necessity for multi-disciplined practices which can undertake complete projects, from economic planning, through engineering and plant construction, to direction and supervision, means that the consultant is one of the few areas of human endeavour where size really can be seen as a virtue.

It follows, from an organizational point of view, that the larger the practice the more rightly its business must be controlled. The marrying of this consideration to the prime requirement that the practice must also be able to make full use of the qualifications and experience of its staff is no mean achievement.

Fundamentally no consultancy can be more than the sum of the people and talents involved in it; it is my firm belief, in the formation of

this kind of organization, that once the right people have been picked the paramount consideration is the efficient and balanced use of individual ability.

On the world scene the British consultancy practice is distinguished by a traditional policy of non-alignment with commercial entities. This evident professionalism, coupled with a long record of successful work abroad (a reputation also enjoyed by British contractors), has a lot to do with the fact that Britons are at present entrusted with work in more than 140 countries.

The nature of consulting practices can take various forms: as an alternative to being completely independent they can be aligned with contractors in a package deal, or with process-plant outfits operating as design-builders. They can be extremely diverse in their activities or stratified according to industries.

Experience has shown that in obtaining a commission it is of little importance to the client whether the consultant is independent or part of a contracting or manufacturing organization provided that for a particular project the consultant acts solely in a professional capacity.

Powerful competition for overseas commissions comes from the Americans, Germans, French and the Russians, with Japanese firms making relatively belated but significant inroads.

For the consulting practice that offers total service to the client—commercial assessment, design engineering, construction, operation—overseas work is essentially a duplication of home activities but with one or more of the phases demanding broader or more comprehensive involvement.

The financial dimension is an example. The availability of finance for projects in the United Kingdom is usually established, in broad terms, by the time the consultants are engaged. In overseas work, particularly with emerging nations, the financing of a large project is usually a very widely-based international operation, often taking in such institutions as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, regional development banks and the like. The purchase of capital equipment is invariably done on an international basis.

The consulting engineer operating overseas must be able to advise on all these areas of capital source; he must have a knowledge and working experience of export financing schemes operated by supplying countries and be able to assess and advise on bilateral credit arrangements and so on.

In short, the ability to get in at the beginning, and to handle, to assess and to be involved with immense financial considerations is a very substantial requirement

for success in gaining overseas contracts. As part of the process of raising capital the report of the feasibility study performed by the consultant—an assessment of both technical and commercial feasibility—is similar in function to the company prospectus that any businessman seeking funds might present to his bank manager.

The feasibility study is always a comprehensive document, perhaps more so for the overseas project. As an example, the study report recently presented by my own company in respect of Morocco's first steel production facility, a £12m fee project, is of interest.

The study dealt in depth with the markets for steel projects, development of the country's steel industry, the proposed works, essential services, construction of the works, organization and operation, cost and profitability, financing and profitability, and more.

Finally, and most important, the document reported on research into the national economic effects of the proposed steelworks, the part that will play in national development, and its influence on matters extending from employment in the region to foreign exchange.

An assurance that it will be to the social and economic benefit of the nation, concerned in one of the constraints under which the international banking organizations will advance finance.

Hence the value of the consultant's ability to carry out a thorough analysis of the national implications of a particular development.

The additional administrative costs associated with operating abroad are considerable. At present my firm has approximately 170 technical and administrative staff and their families. Annaba, Algeria, working on a large steelworks expansion project, is a big undertaking in terms of both cost and management skills.

The administrative work involves such things as recruitment, supervision of employees' contracts, language courses, briefing, transport, provision and management of accommodation, education of children, provision of medical services and so on. An example of a minor but important task is the weekly dispatch of about 150 kilograms of documents by air courier.

Like the manufacturer of consumer goods, the consulting engineer requires a healthy home market if he is to work abroad successfully. It would be almost impossible for him to attract foreign clients without being able to demonstrate a good record. Only with bountiful home sales can a manufacturer produce goods at a price which will still be competitive overseas even with the costs of marketing added.

The author is chairman, W. S. Atkins Group.

## Export fever is fuelled by oil

continued from preceding page

assembly of the team of specialists, but also perhaps arranging the supply and procurement programmes, planning the freight and transport of materials and components—an aspect which may itself affect the basic design of the structure involved—and investigating the local labour situation and the supply of local materials. This would be a novel package of responsibilities indeed for most British entrepreneurs.

Most of all, perhaps, the

industry and professions will have to resolve the basic and traditional divisions that prevent smooth team working between the professions and the contractors. The Americans, Japanese, French, Italians and Germans operate in teams which provide the total design/building package which Middle East clients demand. Professional constraints against working in consortia with contractors, particularly among the architectural profession, are undoubtedly hindering the British effort.

More closely integrated

government support is also a high priority, and there are clear indications that the British Government is ready to undertake a more active role in providing the right scale of financial support as well as assistance in organizing the industry's resources.

The constitution of the Department of the Environment's planned construction export advisory board is expected to have among its terms of reference the selection of firms to pursue particular construction projects overseas. The setting-up of this new board is in itself an indi-

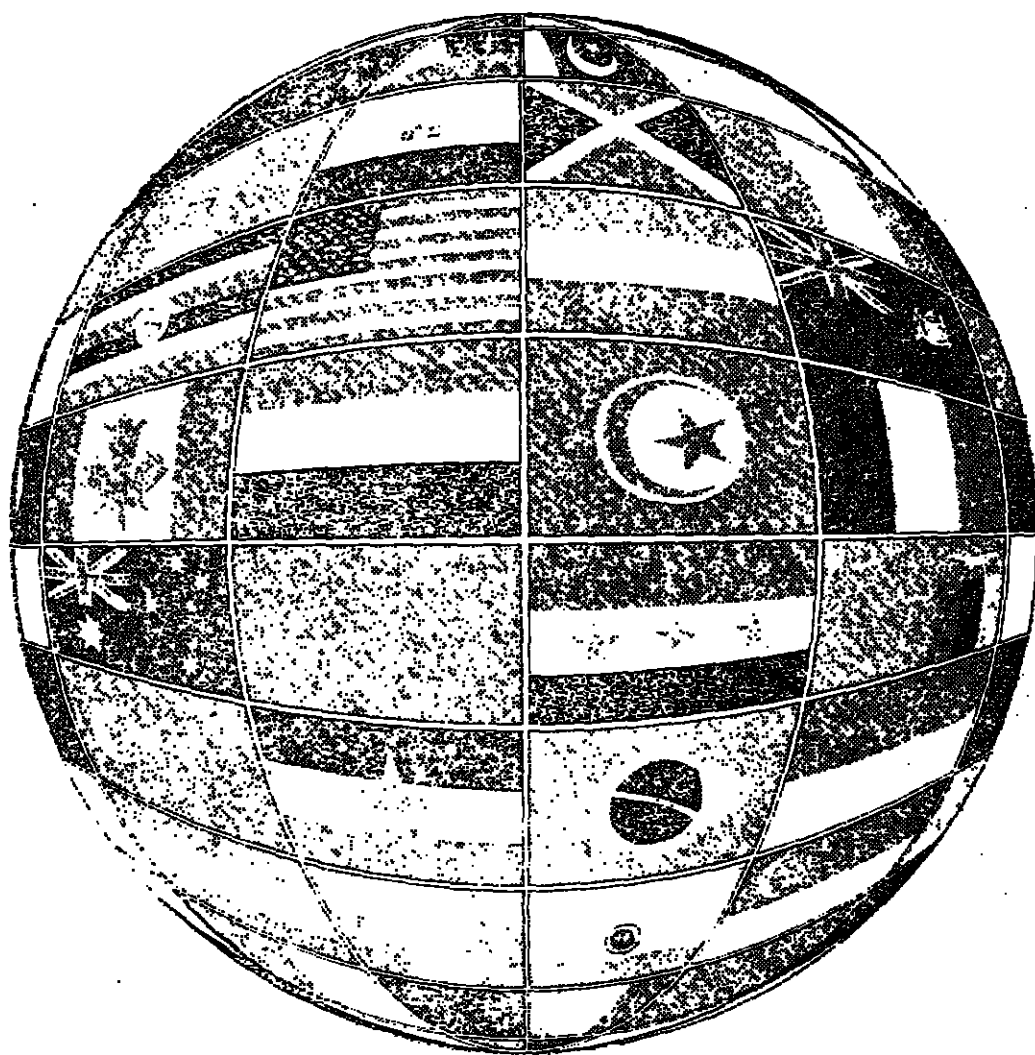
cation of the Government's anxiety that unless the British construction industry is prepared to adjust its response to the projects coming forward, it may lose out disastrously.

As an industry, we can go to market with certain real advantages. The reputation of our consultants for impartiality and efficiency is unparalleled, and this inevitably brings spin-off benefits for British products and services. British contractors are highly regarded, particularly in the complex field of project management. Our planning experi-

ence, especially with new towns, is unrivalled. And of course the widespread use of the English language is a big advantage.

But it is the quality of our response to the new and unprecedented opportunities that will determine whether we carve out a major and continuing share for the British construction industry, or whether this will be yet another temporary flurry between the peaks of the fluctuating home market.

The author is editor, Building News.



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## Mobilization is more than shooting on site

by John Allen

When a contractor, perhaps after months of patient negotiation, finally gets the order to go ahead with an overseas project, the key word is "mobilize". But mobilization may be fairly lengthy, depending on the size of the contract, its duration and location.

Most contractors pride themselves on getting some action on site within a few weeks of the contract being signed, if only because it helps to convince impatient clients that something is happening. Getting a few excavators and loading shovels on to the site and hiring dumptrucks from local hauliers may be good tactics but it is only one aspect of mobilization.

For example, someone has to answer the question of who is going to look after the plant once it is there. How will it be shipped and got to site once loaded? Where are the workshops to be sited and what equipment will they need?

Most overseas jobs awarded by international tender are on a large scale and the successful contractor is faced not merely with organizing project staff, plant and materials but of running a community on the scale of a small town.

That is more than ever true these days when staff expect good facilities from the start. The days are past

when the older hands would camp out on site and wait for the caravans and bungalows. Accommodation includes not only construction camps of a high standard in the field but often a control centre with its own services, workshops and communications.

Provision may extend to schools, hospitals and sports facilities. Not only does the contractor have to provide these for his own staff but often for the designer's and client's representatives too. In remote locations, power plants, water supplies and sewerage also have to be installed before the job can begin.

With all the preparation to be done, it is not surprising that for the first few months of some big projects all that can be seen on site are a few temporary buildings. But the mobilization phase holds the key to a successful project. It requires the marshalling of men, money, machines and materials, the famous "four Ms" of contracting.

That in turn requires detailed planning at a high order, centred on the contractor's head office where teams of specialists will be studying the job from every aspect, including the political, economic and financial as well as design and construction.

Soon after the order is secured, the project staff should have a full brief on every phase of the operation. From then on there is a gradual shift of responsibility as decisions are de-

volved from headquarters in Britain to the site.

To illustrate the scale of operations, take the facilities established by the Majes Consortium in the first phase of the £400m Majes power and irrigation project in Peru.

The job requires construction camps to serve various sectors spread over a mountainous area of southern Peru, assembly of tunnelling equipment and concrete plant to work at high elevations, and all the highly-qualified supervision that goes with it.

Tarmac Construction is the British member of this five-nation consortium. With Skanska Cementgjuteriet in charge of the technical side, Tarmac provides administrative control on behalf of a supervisory board.

The focus of the Majes project is Arequipa, a city of about 100,000 people. Here the consortium has established its headquarters, complete with an industrial area and housing for about 40 to 50 expatriate families. From the centre construction work is being coordinated over a radius of 150 kilometres.

Accommodation is being provided at widely separated locations for up to 4,000 men employed at the peak of construction activity. The longest single tunnel will run for 15.3 km through the mountains at an elevation of 3,600 metres.

Big overseas projects attract men of calibre not only because the rewards are good but because of the

challenge they offer. Responsibility at that level can be measured by the amounts of money being spent. When work gets well under way rates of expenditure can run into millions of pounds a month.

That can happen at the site of the Dubai dry-dock where the Costain-Taylor Woodrow joint venture is building a £100m tanker repair facility for Shuaib Rashid. All the expenditure has to be carefully controlled to ensure good value for the client and profitable operation for the contractor.

Ideally, the overseas contractor will aim to have cash in hand with which to finance his activities. Usually he gets it as a mobilization advance from the client. In the Middle East, some priority defence contracts have started with advance payments of up to 20 per cent of the contract value.

Apart from routine management, the prime job of the project leader is one of diplomacy. He has to keep in close touch with the client as well as maintain smooth working relationships on site. Such a combination of tactical and technical skills is rare and men of that calibre command high salaries and benefits.

Communications around the world are so good that the overseas project manager need never feel cut off from the advice and support of his head office. But that support is not a free lunch; it is rather better than they have been getting lately.

Like the front-line battle commander, he must some-

times do things which run counter to overall strategy. He must make the decision quickly at the risk of taking no decision at all. And at other times he must have the wisdom to be content with things as they are and let the situation sort itself out.

But the top project manager has to be right most of the time because of the scale on which he is operating. Once a big job starts going wrong it can drag the whole company into a loss or impair its reputation for years.

Performance is the key to success. Overseas construction men with achievement to their credit rarely return to Britain for long. Few have much sympathy for the strike-prone and easy-going economy. They believe accounts for one of the biggest troubles contractors meet overseas—poor quality and late delivery of goods from Britain. Loyalty to the home market is strong but is being strained by export contractual obligations.

The existence of the British-orientated construction teams overseas is one of Britain's biggest assets in the export markets. In numerous locations around the world, these men are demonstrating that they can deliver the goods on time. Some of them feel they deserve rather better from Britain than they have been getting lately.

The author is editor, Construction News.



## Depressed home market gives fillip to overseas work

by Philip Lumsden

Armour's leap forward in capital value of overseas work in progress by consulting engineers, \$5,000m in 1974 to \$12,000m in 1975, is a measure of the growth of opportunities open to the industry's professional and building contractors and component

the industry has been but to look over as it is with no improvement to the depressed home market. With oil gushing out wells, Iraq and the other countries of the East represent prime for British construction and products, so certain countries in America and the Far

### Opportunities must be identified

there is no doubt construction market of the Middle East is a big boom, a stage of publicity easy to lose a sense of. Taking the lead by Syria in the East, Egypt in the south, the East and Egypt in the west, the construction work tried out is still less the United Kingdom level, will probably be within the next four years. The importance of this is that, as good profits are made in such a growth, success requires identification of the opportunities for any organization, following a commitment of time to development, business development

ment plans of Iran and Saudi Arabia alone involve construction work of an average of between \$3,000m and \$5,000m at 1974 prices. Few, except the most starry-eyed dreamers, believe that these targets are achievable. The more likely level of realization represents an average annual growth rate of 15-20 per cent in construction industry output. This in itself would be no mean achievement.

Already there is a shortage of manpower, management, transport and communications, to say nothing of some building materials. These deficiencies are already causing bottlenecks. As a result, construction costs are rising rapidly, in some instances by 30 per cent a year or even more. This is aggravated by a shortage of trained civil servants. While it is fairly easy to set up a central planning organization, it is proving difficult to build up the administrative apparatus necessary to put the ideas of the planners into effect. In most of the countries concerned the local administration is just not capable of coping with the enormous difficulties that are being thrust upon it, and it will take time to develop sufficiently.

Within an industry that may be expected to grow at some 15 per cent a year over the next few years, high priority is already being given to port, harbour and road schemes (for example, Arabia, Dubai, Bandar Abbas); building and civil engineering works related to projects for the armed forces, particularly in Iran and Saudi Arabia; hotel buildings (there are plans for no less than seven hotels in Abu Dhabi alone).

Over the next few years increasing importance will be laid on low and medium cost housing, sewerage and water supply schemes (Sir Alexander Gibb & Partners are consultants for Tehran).

In general, opportunities lie in prefabricated building systems (joint venture, project basis, or export); export of local joint venture production of labour saving components; export of the more advanced building components not manufactured locally; supply of skill through joint ventures for the large-scale local manufacture of less well developed building products; execution of large construction contracts for which the necessary management resources are not usually available locally; execution



The auditorium of a hotel and conference centre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, designed by Trevor Dannatt and Partners.

of specialist sub-contract work in higher technology.

The smaller Gulf states are of great interest, but probably only in the short term. Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq all offer short and medium term interest (up to the early 1980s). Egypt is considered to offer a medium to longer term potential. British consulting engineers are already well placed in this.

Of all the South American countries Venezuela, Brazil and Peru immediately come to mind as important construction markets, although with the exception of Chile—since the United Kingdom Government suspended official aid and technical assistance—all countries present opportunities for British skill and investment in joint ventures, construction plant and machinery and the more advanced building components, for example air conditioning equipment, solar con-

The size of Brazil as a potential market is frightening. With a population of 104 million which is forecast to rise to 120 million by 1980, it is little wonder that Brazil's second national development plan's objectives are set so high.

It is planned to build more houses than the rest of South America put together to triple the number of hotel bedrooms, to spend 33,000m cru on roads, 7,400m cru on airports, 9,000m cru on ports, to mention just a part of the whole. The \$5,500m Irapi scheme which the Brazilians are building with the Paraguayans is the largest hydroelectric development in the world.

Once again British consulting engineers are in the forefront, advising the Brazilian Government on ports (Rendel, Palmer & Tritton) and irrigation (Sir M. MacDonald and Partners).

In Peru, a country with sizeable fishing interests and mineral resources—copper, oil, iron ore, silver, gold, lead, zinc, manganese, tungsten, not to mention the rarer metals—twice the size of France but with a population of only 15 million, Tarmac Construction is the leader for the first stage of the Majes project valued at \$200m.

Livesey and Henderson have just completed the design of a large port development at Chimbote and are engaged on the design of a new river terminal at Pucallpa; Kennedy and Donkin and concerned with a 138 kV line between Toquepala and Arequipa. W.S. Atkins & Partners have recently completed a study of the steel industry, while Binnie & Partners are advising on Greater Lima water resources.

Venezuela, the leading South American oil exporting country, is one of the most affluent, and busily carrying out a five-year plan calling for expenditure of some \$40,000m.

British consulting engineers are already working on a number of important projects, including Caracas Metro and, with the plan calling for the modernization and expansion of ports at La Guaira, Puerto Cabello and Matanzas, and the construction of hospitals, housing, schools, roads and the building of two new cities at Diego de Lozada and Francisco Fajardo, we should see a big campaign by the professions, contractors and building material component and plant producers during the next 12 months.

Hongkong, on the other hand, plans to house almost two million people between now and 1985 at an estimated cost of \$HK3,000m. However, this increases to \$HK5,000m when the cost of the schools, hospitals and roads that will be necessary is added.

To help to overcome traffic congestion some \$HK800m is to be spent on flyovers and interchanges while \$HK15,000m is the estimated cost of the underground mass transit railway. If we add an airport, a water storage project likely to cost \$HK1,300m and a polysyrene plant at \$HK500m, the scale of the challenge facing the administration and local industry can be seen.

Indonesia with its population of 129 million is larger than the average European believes. With its oil, copper, tin, bauxite and timber resources and the difficulties associated with a rising population, Indonesia presents good opportunities for British skill—a fact recognized by our consulting engineers.

### Concerned in flood control

Not only are British consulting engineers advising a variety of areas at government level, they are also concerned with Wampur river flood control, development of the ports of Surabaya, Panjaj and Belawan, irrigation schemes throughout East Java, water supply, drainage and sewerage disposal; all representing possible future opportunities for contracting services and the supply of plant and some building components.

Malaysia with its population of about 12 million and rubber, oil, natural gas and tin, enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the Far East.

Again, our consulting engineers are active on the peninsula, Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei. New works on airports, drainage, sewerage and refuse disposal, harbours, docks, power stations, roads are all being planned.

There is a British construction industry presence in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Taiwan and Burma: let us hope it grows.

The author is managing director, Building Management & Marketing Consultants.

## Tendering: lucrative but hard

by John Myers

Success in tendering for building and civil engineering work overseas is the province of a select band of British contractors. In the financial year 1974-75 about 80 United Kingdom companies won contracts in international construction markets.

The Department of the Environment estimates the value of these contracts to be \$980m at present prices. The bulk of this sum is accounted for by 20 companies with established overseas interests: they signed contracts for all but 4 per cent of the \$980m; six large contractors took more than two-thirds of the total.

The names of Laing, Wimpey, Taylor Woodrow, Tarmac, Costain, Bernard Sunley, Higgs & Hill, and others occur frequently in the reports of successful overseas tendering.

The firms which bid and win are few, yet the international market is extensive and scarcely tapped. British contractors are already active in 106 countries abroad, but they have only a fraction of the available business.

There are perhaps more contractors who would like to build up a portfolio of work overseas. The diversification, if it could be achieved profitably, would cushion them against recession in the domestic market.

One of the main deterrents is the cost of tendering efficiently in parts of the world where a company's experience is negligible or non-existent. The cost in gaining adequate information on construction schemes up for tender; in determining the conditions which should influence the firm's quotation; in preparing the way for a bid; and in submitting the tender documents in an acceptable form.

Finding out in time about markets is largely a matter of diligent collection of intelligence. This can be accomplished systematically at a fairly modest level of expenditure. For example, the export intelligence service of the British Overseas Trade Board offers an alerting service to contractors interested in work abroad.

The annual rate for companies subscribing to the BOTB's daily gazette is \$200. In addition, periodicals such as World Construction often carry news of projects reaching the tendering stage; and several of these schemes form part of joint venture agreements.

take to keep clients up-to-date on market opportunities.

Informal sources of information, good contacts, can also be invaluable—particularly so when projects are at an early stage. In some areas, the first news of a forthcoming construction contract is when architects are appointed to prepare preliminary plans.

The contractor who hears of the appointment in advance, perhaps incidentally over lunch, is in a position to move early; and he can probably ensure that, if the project seems desirable, his firm is invited to bid.

Following up leads helps to identify the opportunities to tender. The next difficulty is to limit the field to the contracts which the company has a chance of winning, and which it can win out at a profit. The sifting process can be expensive, even if the client's requirements are unambiguously specified in English.

As an illustration, an announcement appeared earlier this year in the European Communities' official journal. The local Government in Berlin required an office building with accommodation of 135,000 sq ft to be completed by 1978 or 1979. It was an open tender.

To decide whether or not to bid, a British contractor needs a sizable volume of information about conditions in the market in West Germany, the particular difficulties of construction work in Berlin, the chances of obtaining local bank financing of his cash flow, and estimates of movements in building labour and materials prices. In other words, the contractor has to bear the costs of the preliminary investigation, which he might only recoup fully if he rapidly wins several contracts in West Germany.

Suppose that a contractor does decide to invest his time, money and patience in securing business abroad. He still faces uncertainties. The form of building or civil engineering contract may be unfamiliar and difficult to interpret. Where the contract is negotiated (perhaps in some countries over a period of two years or more), there can be hidden traps for the unwary.

Eastern European governments, for example, are commissioning western contractors to build hotels, factories and trade centres and to carry out civil engineering projects in their countries. Some of these schemes form part of joint venture agreements.

It is easy to miss important potentialities in these ventures. Contractors, for example, might usefully provide accommodation, medical attention and visas to travel in emergencies for staff engaged on projects in communist countries. This simple point has been overlooked sometimes, embarrassingly.

Frequently, the contractor who outbids others in a competitive tender will be required to post a performance bond; or to back his quotation with a guarantee. In the West Berlin office building scheme, for example, one of the requirements was security for performance of 5 per cent of the invoiced price.

When such security has to be deposited in advance, the contractor can become involved with international banking and finance houses. He might also find it necessary to take out insurance to safeguard his future income in countries where there are political risks.

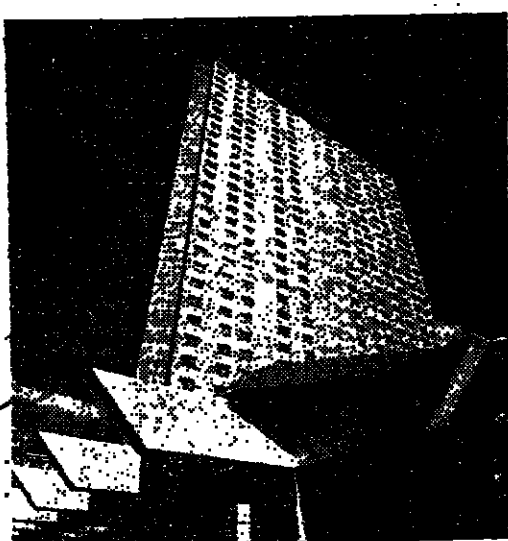
The complexities of tendering for work overseas deter companies which, even in the United Kingdom, concentrate their activities in a limited geographical region—in an area of operations where the contractor is familiar with market conditions.

However, there is a body of opinion which suggests that more United Kingdom construction companies could capitalize internationally on their skills and experience. The United Kingdom Construction Exports Advisory Board has recently been formed to stimulate more effort by British contractors in export markets.

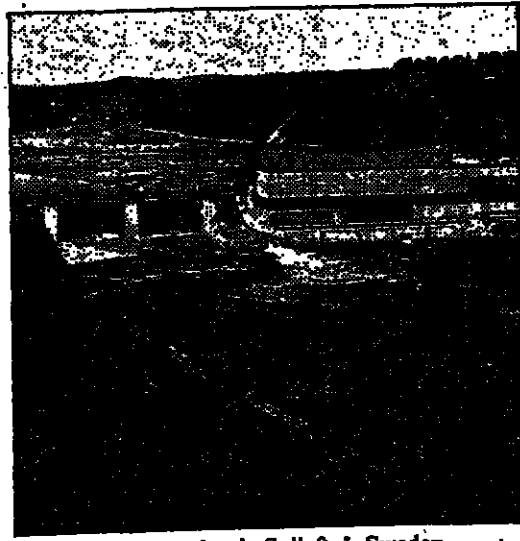
The rewards can be substantial. Not least to the quoted companies, whose shares might appreciate in value if investors observed that they were diversifying effectively overseas. Government financial assistance to exporters can help to reduce the costs of entering these markets; and there are information and advisory services which provide data and market interpretations for contractors.

Yet these facilities do not cover all the costs and difficulties of tendering. It remains to be seen whether small and medium-sized construction enterprises, depressed by domestic market conditions, will be persuaded to invest scarce resources in tendering for projects in unfamiliar markets.

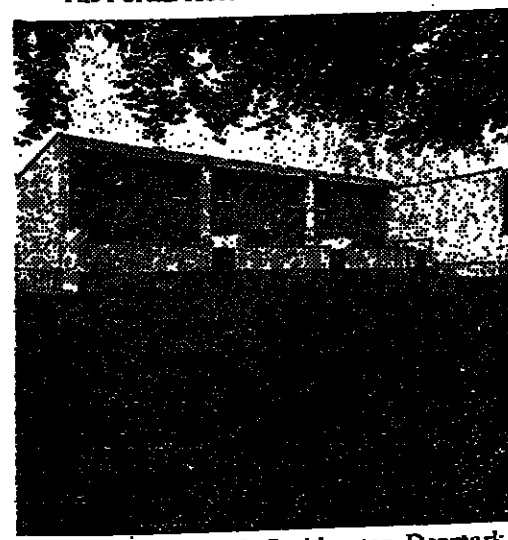
# The world is our construction site.



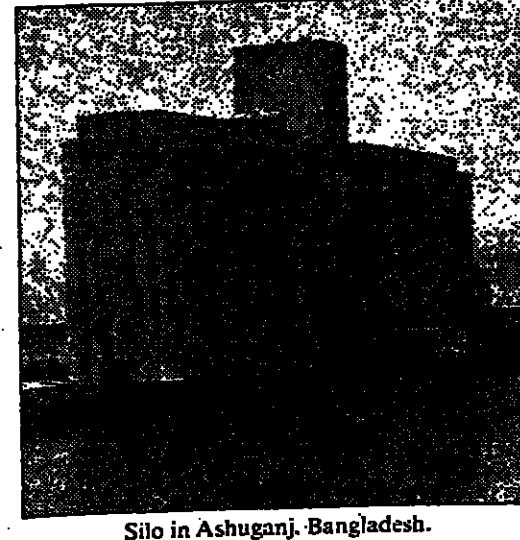
The Forum Hotel in Warsaw, Poland.



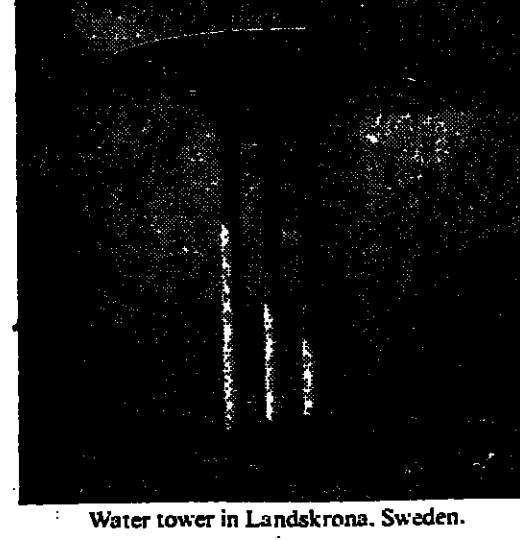
Power station in Sollefteå, Sweden.



Single-family houses in Sneeksteren, Denmark.



Silo in Ashuganj, Bangladesh.



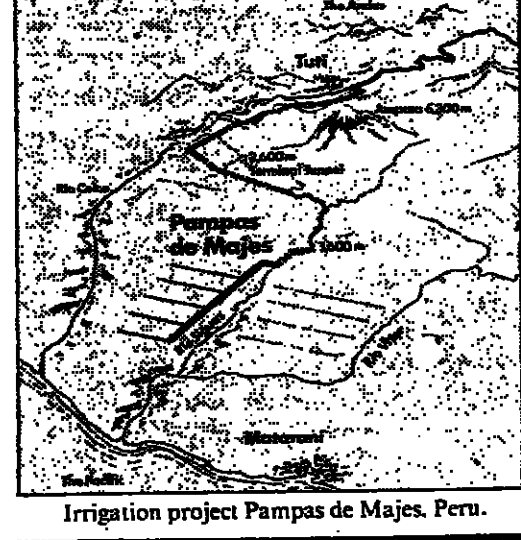
Water tower in Landskrona, Sweden.



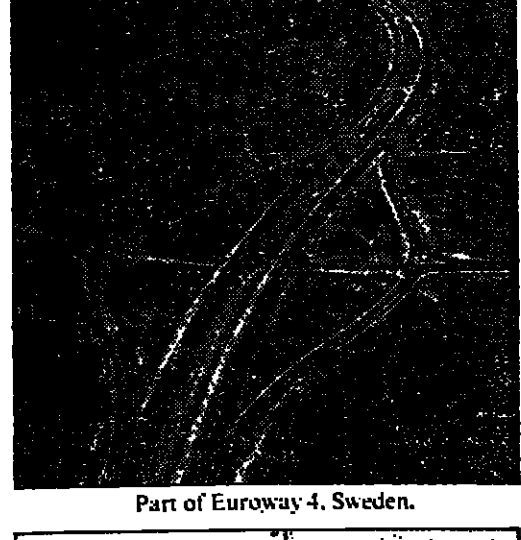
The Kidatu Hydroelectric Power Plant, Tanzania.



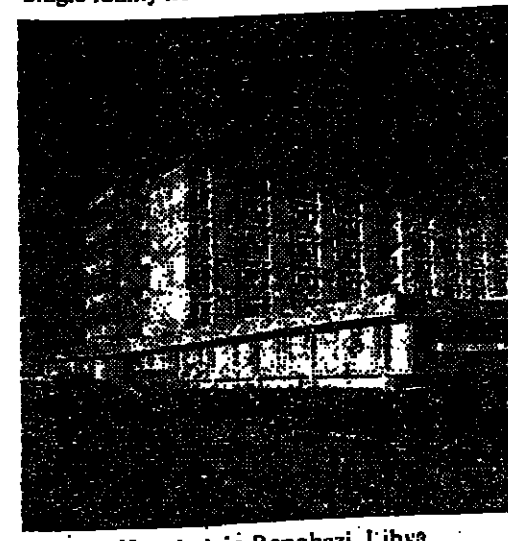
The Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Station, Finland.



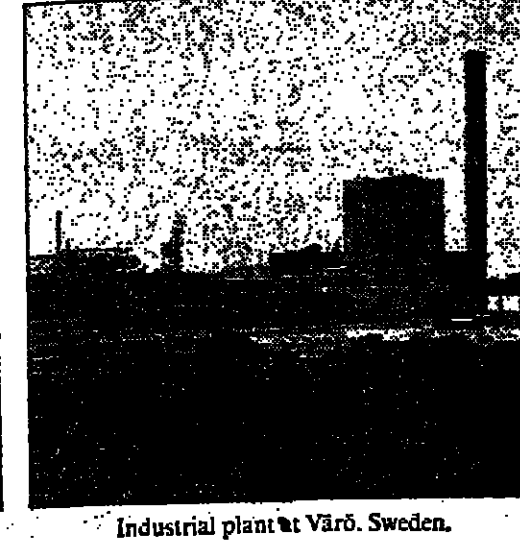
Irrigation project Pampas de Majes, Peru.



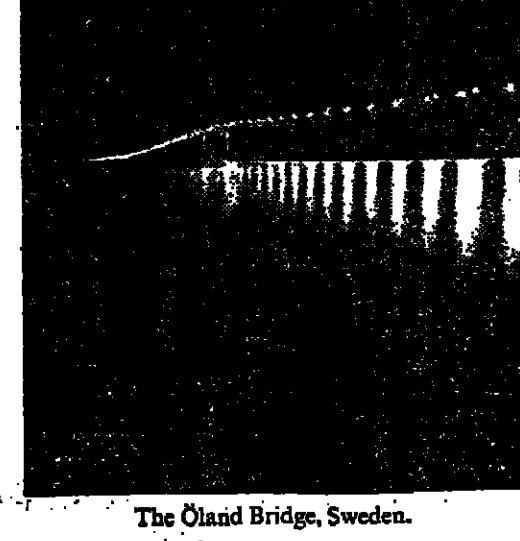
Part of Euroway 4, Sweden.



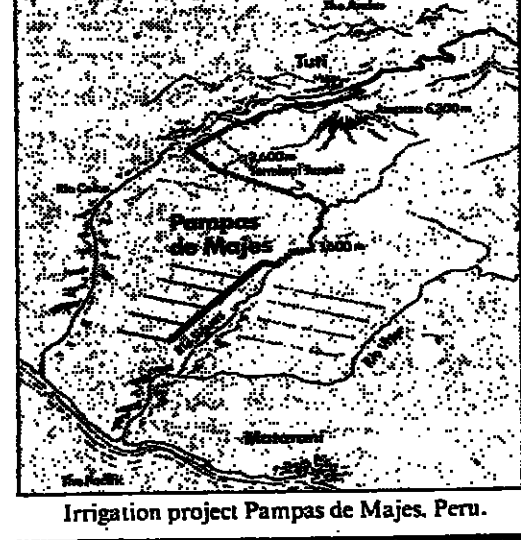
Hospital in Benghazi, Libya.



Industrial plant at Värö, Sweden.



The Öland Bridge, Sweden.



Hospital in Niswa, Oman.



Dry dock in Gdynia, Poland.

John Lumsden will join Finance at the Forestry Commission on January 1 in succession to Mr P. Nicholls.

GUS operates over 2,500 Mail Order and Retail Establishments in the U.K. and Overseas.





Stock Exchange Prices

Tone stays firm

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 17. Dealings End Nov 28. Contango Day, Dec 1. Settlement Day, Dec 9.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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For Saving  
Investing and  
Purchase  
**HALIFAX**  
BUILDING SOCIETY  
022-229911

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

For Saving  
Investing and  
House-Purchase  
**HALIFAX**  
BUILDING SOCIETY  
022-229911

### Whitehall considers state funding of new car in turn for Chrysler pledge

Mr Corina and Townsend... of civil servants and... of the Chrysler... day's talks as "constructive". Mr Riccardo was accompanied by Mr Eugene Caffero, president of Chrysler Corporation, and Mr Don Lander, chairman and managing director respectively of Chrysler UK. What is emerging is that any government rescue operation concerns not just immediate short-term funding problems but the more fundamental longer-term... Mr Riccardo... the possibility of the... to build a new car... at the Lin... plant in Scot... Chrysler Corpora... asked to withdraw... to undertake a pro... from the... market from January 1... problem is persuading... perhaps with some... to bank guarantees, to... a very heavy trading... year, Mr Riccardo... a Ricardo, chairman... Chrysler parent, yester... called on Mr Eric... Secretary of State for... and gave the Govern... appraisal of the im... of various courses of... financers and advisers... tuding these views in... few days and another... seems likely early next... UK described yester...

### Tokyo move to help Europe car importers

In face of persistent reports that the Government will shortly introduce restrictions on the import of Japanese cars, the Japanese government are believed to be making a big step forward to improve European car sales in Japan. A report from Tokyo last night suggests that the Japanese Ministry of Transport has asked for an allocation in the budget for the fiscal year starting April, 1976, to base motor industry experts at their Geneva embassy. These transport attachés will travel over Europe supervising exhaust emission and safety tests being conducted on new cars destined for Japan. British and European motor manufacturers have been urging this for many years, and have complained that Japanese regulations controlling the acceptance of new models is contrary to the spirit of free trading. Cars intended for sale in Japan have to be shipped out for testing by the Japanese themselves. In view of the frequent changes made to their exhaust emission standards—already the toughest in the world—and difficulties in obtaining prompt translations, this frequently means that cars are not acceptable on arrival.

### Babcock willing to pay \$60m for American Chain & Cable group

By Ronald Pullen  
Babcock & Wilcox has ended the uncertainty over redeployment of the \$60m (about £30m) it received from the sale to Iran earlier this year of its 25 per cent stake in Deutsche Babcock. The engineering group has announced that it is making an offer for American Chain & Cable (ACC). Babcock is offering \$27 a share for the 2.49m ACCO shares in issue, which compares with a 1975 trading range, before the shares were suspended in New York yesterday, between \$13 and \$20 and net tangible assets of \$38.2 a share in the last balance sheet. The total consideration, including the expenses of the offer, will amount to \$67 (about £33m). The bulk of this—\$50m—will come from the proceeds of the Deutsche Babcock sale, which, with Bank of England permission, has been held offshore in the Eurodollar market in readiness for just such an acquisition, and the remaining \$17m has been secured from New York by a seven-year medium-term loan. If the bid is contested, it could, under United States regulations, turn into a long-drawn-out affair. But Babcock made it clear yesterday that it would not be deterred by the opposition. Babcock had been looking for an engineering company in the United States involved in areas of business it understands and with a proven record of success. ACCO produces a wide variety of industrial products ranging from materials handling systems, process control equipment through to chain and wire products. The financial record has been good for the past five years.



Mr John King, chairman of Babcock & Wilcox.

### 63pc rise in Royal Insurance profits

By Our Insurance Correspondent  
Royal Insurance, biggest of the United Kingdom composite insurance groups after Commercial Union, yesterday announced a 63 per cent increase in profits before tax, to £22.6m, in the first nine months of this year. Although this was not quite up to some stock market expectations, the result contrasted strongly with the near 60 per cent fall in pre-tax profits for the equivalent period which CU announced on Monday. Again in sharp contrast to CU, whose global underwriting losses increased by more than four times to £46.7m in the first nine months, Royal's underwriting losses were reduced by 10 per cent to £2.3m. Both groups have a similar geographical spread of business and it is in the United States that Royal is making much better progress, having cut back sharply on unprofitable lines. Royal's underwriting loss in the United States shows only a marginal rise to £15m in the first nine months while CU's virtually trebled to £62m (about £30m). In Canada and Australia too, Royal's underwriting losses were reduced. Its investment income rose 16 per cent to £43m over the period, and this does not yet reflect the benefit of the successful £54m rights issue which the group made in September. Last night Royal shares closed unchanged at 318p while those of Commercial Union declined further, by 4 1/2p to 137 1/2p.

### Like threatens Mini Jaguar plants

Shakespeare... of British Ley... and Mini-cars may... before the weekend... 10,000 workers in the... and Birmingham... plants are facing lay... threatened progressive... in the car plants, likely to begin within... hours, comes after... yesterday by 230 at British Leyland's... romwich car body... factory to continue a... ich began on Friday... kers, who work in the... ops which make car... for both Jaguar and... assembly lines are in... with the management... is described as a... unionist's issue. Yesterday's mass meeting... a unanimous vote to... the stoppage, which... a walk-out by the... ers. No date for the... meeting was arranged... night a British Leyland... spokesman said this was bound to cause increasing disruption in the assembly plants as stocks of bodies ran out. A total shutdown at both the Jaguar plant in Coventry and the Mini assembly line in Longbridge in Birmingham could mean production losses running at more than a million pounds a day for British Leyland. Meanwhile British Leyland's Rover, car and Land Rover operations are still disrupted by the effects of another dispute. Although the initial trouble at the Solihull plant, over the management's introduction of industrial engineers, has now been settled after talks at the weekend, vehicle production has only partly been restored. More than a thousand workers returned yesterday to the Rover assembly lines but another 1,400 who make Land Rover and Range Rovers were out. The management said it planned to recall them before the weekend.

### Leyland workers cited for 'lack of effort'

By Clifford Webb  
A hard-hitting report blaming overmanning and "lack of effort" by workers for Leyland Cars failure to compete with Japanese rivals, will be put before the shareholders of the British company's new union-management committees. Another controversial finding knocks the widely held belief that Leyland plants are antiquated and its workers have far too few mechanical aids at their elbow. The report insists some Leyland plants compare quite favourably with Japanese rivals from an equipment standpoint. This is the opinion of six Leyland engineers, who spent a month earlier this year studying Japanese factories including some belonging to the largest motor groups, Toyota and Nissan-Datsun. Sources close to Leyland Cars said yesterday that the report clearly identified shortcomings. Now the report is to go before the new plant level union-management committees. In this way, Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director is ensuring that the committees start life with plenty to grow their teeth into. He is also throwing the question for better performance directly to the shop stewards. They have always defended poor productivity by their members vis-à-vis the Japanese by insisting that levels have been calculated using different and unfair yardsticks. This will no longer hold water because the Leyland investigating team was specifically instructed to use a common basis for its findings. It is also understood that Leyland Cars has delayed the placing of contracts for many millions of pounds worth of new machinery until these proposals have been discussed with the joint committees. This may surprise many observers who understood that the orders were already going out on the basis of recommendations accepted by the Ryder Committee.

### OECD puts pressure on Bonn to reflate

From David Blake  
Paris, Nov 18  
West Germany came under pressure yesterday to reflate its economy further at a meeting here today of the economic policy committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. During a review of prospects for 1976, West Germany met considerable criticism about its forecast that its economy would grow in real terms by 5 per cent during 1976. The meeting, attended by delegates from members of the 24-nation OECD had before it a set of revised forecasts from the Secretariat, which has slightly increased its estimate of German growth from 1.6 per cent to about 3 per cent for next year. But this is not thought to represent a sufficient basis for action by the members towards pulling the world out of recession. Although the meeting took place less than 24 hours after leaders of the world's six most important non-communist industrial nations pledged themselves to embark on a growth pact, there was little sign of any new initiative or policies as a result of that meeting. The session began with an introduction in which delegates were told they faced a "serious circle" in which any reflection to deal with unemployment might cause unacceptable inflation. The Secretariat forecasts real growth of 4 per cent for the OECD area as a whole, but Western Europe is expected to do considerably worse than this. The United States economy would grow by 5 1/2 per cent during 1976, according to the OECD, compared to 7 per cent in official American estimates. These estimates have taken a bit of a knock today with the US growth forecast during the third quarter of this year, which was originally put at 11.2 per cent, has been revised downwards to 9 per cent in real terms. This is because of technical factors connected with the price deflator. France is expected to grow by less than 3 per cent and Italy by only 1 per cent. The biggest gap between optimistic nation assessments and pessimistic OECD projections is in the case of Britain, whose economy will be discussed tomorrow. The secretariat predicts a decline of 0.2 per cent next year and the British Government expects growth of 2.4 per cent in real terms.

### MP attacks decision to buy steel abroad as 'disgraceful'

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent  
The British Steel Corporation's arrangements to buy up to 200,000 tonnes of steel slabs from European competitors when thousands of its workers face short-time working and redundancy, are expected to come under fire from steel constituency MPs when Parliament reassembles today. Mr Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport, last night attacked the plan, which was disclosed in *The Times* yesterday. He hopes to raise the matter during the Queen's Speech debate today. "It is simply disgraceful. It is a sad reflection on the people who are managing the steel industry. I hope to raise this and other matters in the Commons," he said. Steel industry trade unions are also unhappy about the move, particularly at a time when the TUC is pressing the Government for selective controls on a wide range of imports. Mr Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said his union was concerned about imports generally in the steel industry. "We know these imports are coming in, and we are not happy about it, particularly at a time when our members are being laid off or are on short time." But the unions have been less vociferous about the BSC's decision to buy abroad than might have been the case, because industrial disputes—notably the protracted dispute over manning of the new £27m blast furnace at Llanwern—are being cited as one reason which influenced the BSC. Yesterday the corporation maintained a formal silence on the disclosures, but clearly its decision to import steel slabs was influenced by the need to keep motor industry customers happy and the difficulty of scaling up plant capacity to meet a particular order for delivery in the first quarter of next year. The steel will come from manufacturers in Holland and France, and if options on 200,000 tonnes are taken up, between £15m-£20m will be involved. The slabs will be processed and rolled into sheet or coil for delivery, largely to the motor industry. The corporation has already purchased 45,000 tonnes of hot rolled coil from European competitors.

### Ransome offers £3.8m for component firm

Ransome Hoffman Pollard, the bearings manufacturer, is bidding £3.8m for MTE, an Essex-based producer of components for control gear. The bid, which is designed to offer the cyclical nature of RHP's traditional business, has the support of MTE's board, led by Mr Reggie Browne, founder and chairman, who controls 29.7 per cent of the shares. It takes the form of 35 RHP shares plus £12.50 for every 100 MTE shares. With RHP standing at 70p yesterday the bid is thus worth 37p a share. Schroders is underwriting the bid with a cash alternative equal to 30.7p a share. There is also an offer for MTE's convertible loan stock. RHP is forecasting profits for the year just ended of at least £5.75m, compared to £2.8m for 1974.

### proposal rum ergy policy

where the fuel industry... of energy policy was... yesterday by Mr... Benn, Secretary of Energy. It also be useful as a board where inter-policies that might... Government commitment to new policy... the Fuel Luncheon... London. "It is where... est impinges on... the need for a more... framework to discuss... interests is most... he said. "I will be having talks... week with Mr Ruge... the Swedish minister... y, mainly on Sweden's... on in the North Sea... hansson arrived in... yday for a four-day... he will visit the... plant in Cumbria... aste from Swedish... ver stations is repro...

### GM opens negotiations for Egyptian assembly plant

By Derek Harris  
General Motors Corporation has opened negotiations to set up a plant in Egypt. The size of the Egyptian plant is not yet known, but General Motors could, like other manufacturers, be attracted by the free-of-tax zone facilities which the Egyptians are now considering in a number of areas, including Port Said and Suez. The company is already committed to one other Middle East venture, a joint one in Saudi Arabia for building 8,000 vehicles a year rising to 15,000. Production of cars and lorries will start next year. Ford Motor of America have already reopened discussions with the Egyptians on reestablishing a plant in the country, which they created some years ago. This is likely to include production of diesel engines for defence vehicles, thereby sidestepping any problems with the Arab boycott restrictions which Honda of Japan is another big manufacturer negotiating for an Egyptian plant. British Leyland is re-examining plans for a Land Rover factory in Egypt, and although its production may be pruned compared with original intentions, eventual plans to extend production to lorries might be brought forward. What is being predicted as a booming Middle East lorry market, particularly in the medium size range, is one of the biggest factors to the motor manufacturers. Egypt's tax-free zone proposal would allow components to be shipped in, assembled and re-exported without attracting customs duties, thus offering a cheap springboard to the rich Middle East market. It is significant that component makers are also looking closely into possible production in the Middle East. Eaton Corporation, the American multinational, which is an important manufacturer of lorry axles and transmissions, has had preliminary discussions in a number of Middle East countries, including Egypt and Iran.

### Lockheed wins extension for refinancing plan

Burbank, California, Nov 18.—Lockheed Aircraft Corporation may be having some last-minute problems getting its lending banks to go along with the company's proposed amendments to its financing and recapitalization plan. The company said that the 24 lending banks had agreed to a one-month extension until December 15 of the deadline for their approval of Lockheed's amendments to the basic plan. Those amendments would extend the periods for carrying out certain key transactions under the financial restructuring. The company has not said that there are any problems in getting the banks to go along with any aspect of the financing plan. The financing plan is essential to the company's future. It was worked out with the banks last May. One amendment would extend to May 15 from last Saturday the date for conversion of bank debt to Lockheed preferred stock.—AP-Dow Jones.

### Community output shows some signs of recovery

From David Cross  
Brussels, Nov 18  
First signs that the European Community's steel industry may be beginning to recover from its deep recession emerge from new figures published in Brussels today. According to the Community's statistical office, orders for a variety of products rose by more than 50 per cent between August and September to a total of 7.2 million tons. Production, too, was on the increase from 8.2 million tons in August to 10.1 million tons in September and 10.4 million tons in October. Nevertheless, EEC steel experts gave a warning against over-optimism. They pointed out that August figures for new orders and production were always lower than for other months of the year. In addition, new orders and production were still running well below last year's levels.

### Pruniers bidders withdraw

Pruniers, the famous London fish restaurant, is now not to be sold to the Wheelers chain, it emerged last night. A brief statement said that negotiations between the Wheelers board and the proprietors of Pruniers, first announced two months ago, would not proceed. Madame Prunier, who has run the restaurant in St James Street since its opening 40 years ago, said last night the negotiations had been terminated amicably after disagreement on a few points. It had been thought that Madame Prunier would retire from the day-to-day management of the business and accept a non-executive directorship on the Wheelers board. Last night she said she would not be retiring on December 20 as planned, nor was she seeking any other purchaser for the restaurant at the moment.

### in concern ture of thorp yard

son has expressed his... the future of the... oil rig production... ardepool. In reply to a letter from... of England Develop... mental stressing... a new order for the... shore yard, Mr Wilson... the situation at the... yard is a matter... lery—particularly... in... yard's good record... lison added that Mr... Benn, Secretary of Energy, has been... keep him in touch with... offshore is one of only... ards capable of build... production rigs for the... and employs 2,000... m have said that 1,300... could lose their jobs... orders are received.

### Opec setting up \$1,000m fund for poor nations

Vienna, Nov 18.—The 13 nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed here late tonight to set up a \$1,000m (about £480m) aid fund for poor nations. The fund was announced by Mr Yamsheid Amouzegar, the Iranian minister of the interior. He said all the Opec countries would contribute to the fund. The money would be used to give non-interest loans to poor countries to replenish their reserves used up in paying their high oil bills. It would also be used to assist development projects in these countries. Aberdeen to get £2.5m airport terminal Work is to start later this month on a £2.5m airport terminal building for Aberdeen, it was announced yesterday. The British Airports Authority said the contract had been awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction (Scotland) and work was due to be completed in April, 1977. Aberdeen is the busiest airport for its size in the United Kingdom. Ten years ago it was used by 50,000 passengers annually—today the figure is half a million.

### How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
BP	11p to 59 1/2p	Barclays Bank	5p to 31 1/2p
Coral, J. Higgs	3p to 10 1/2p	Cons Tea Land	3p to 32 1/2p
Costa	12p to 24 1/2p	Courtaulds	3p to 13 1/2p
Estate Duties	8p to 26 1/2p	Fisons	5p to 17 1/2p
Hawker Siddeley	8p to 34 1/2p	Glaxo	3p to 25 1/2p
Heath	8p to 34 1/2p	Hawesley	10p to 18 1/2p
Hoveringham	3p to 30p	Kiwiross	15p to 40 1/2p
Johnson-Rich	10p to 17 1/2p	Messina Trans	10p to 28 1/2p
Man Ship Canal	10p to 17 1/2p	Oxley Printing	1p to 12p
MCT	8p to 36p	Selection Tet	10p to 45 1/2p
Scott Mortgage	10 1/2p to 10 1/2p	Sentrast	15p to 21 1/2p
Telford	8p to 33p	UC Invest	10p to 27 1/2p
Utd Eng	4p to 27p	Union Corp	10p to 39 1/2p
		Viatkontein	8p to 94p

### THE POUND

Bank	buys	Bank	sells
Australian \$	1.68	Austrian Sch	35.50
Belgian F	36.50	Belgium F	36.50
Canada \$	2.11	Denmark Kr	12.70
Denmark Kr	12.70	Finland Mark	6.15
France Fr	9.25	France Fr	9.25
Germany DM	5.45	Greece Dr	5.25
Hong Kong \$	10.55	Hong Kong \$	10.55
Italy Lr	1,560.00	Italy Lr	1,560.00
Japan Yn	645.00	Netherlands Gld	620.00
Norway Kr	11.60	Norway Kr	11.25
Portugal Esc	75.00	Portugal Esc	65.00
S Africa Rd	125.25	Spain Ptas	113.50
Spain Ptas	113.50	Sweden Kr	9.20
Switzerland Fr	5.55	Switzerland Fr	5.35
Yugoslavia Dnr	42.50	Yugoslavia Dnr	39.00

## SMITHS INDUSTRIES 1975

### Results for the year ended 2 August 1975

	1974	1975	%
Turnover	£135,750,000	£157,500,000	+16%
Trading Profit	£13,214,000	£15,137,000	+15%
Profit before Tax	£11,289,000	£12,543,000	+11%
Turnover for use Overseas	£54,400,000	£67,400,000	+24%

This year the Company has issued to all Shareholders and Employees an illustrated publication entitled—

### 1975 SPECIAL REPORT

which further interprets the performance of the Company as revealed in the Report & Accounts for the financial year ended on 2 August 1975.

Copies of the 1975 Special Report and of the Report & Accounts are available from the Secretary—

**SMITHS INDUSTRIES LIMITED CRICKLEWOOD NW2 6JN**



## Record world grain output predicted despite Soviet shortfall

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Nov 18  
Senior officials of the Department of Agriculture today forecast that world grain output would reach an all-time high in the year to next July, with United States exports soaring to a record total.

Mr. Richard Bell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, told a conference that world grain production should rise by 2 per cent in the year to next July to 1,173 million tonnes.

He stressed that a particularly encouraging development was the likely 5 per cent rise in production in developing countries after four years of declining output.

Mr. Bell estimated that major grain shortfalls this year would be in the Soviet Union (a decline of 36 million tonnes),

Eastern Europe (decline of four million tonnes) and Western Europe (a fall of 10 million tonnes). These would be more than offset by a 75 million-tonne rise in the rest of the world, including a 45 million-tonne gain in the United States.

Mr. Bruce Meeker, of the department's foreign service, said American agricultural exports next year should be worth about \$1,100m (about £550m) above this year's record total of \$2,100m. This should result in a \$700m rise in the United States agricultural trade surplus taking it to \$12,700m.

Mr. Kenneth Farrell, of the department's research service, told the conference that food prices in the United States were likely to rise at an annual rate of only 4 to 5 per cent in the first half of next year, against 9 per cent of all of 1975.

Mr. Rex Daly, also of the research service, said that net income to farmers in the current crop year could total \$25,000m after a rise of more than \$10,000m in cash receipts to a probable \$101,000m.

## Watchdog promise by chairman of NEB

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Correspondent  
Companies in which the National Enterprise Board makes an investment can expect their activities to be kept under stringent surveillance by the board, which formally comes into operation today.

This was made clear yesterday by Lord Ryder, chairman of the NEB, in an address to the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, in which he said that the board would pursue a policy of positive and active investment management.

"If our investments do not produce results, we shall take more constructive action than merely voting with our feet. We shall be asking the management of the company some searching questions," the NEB chairman said.

Lord Ryder said the NEB wanted to be closely associated with the work of identifying key sectors of manufacturing industry for priority treatment.

But at the same time it would be on the look-out for situations where timely intervention would prevent a company from getting into a state where only drastic action could save it.

"I believe there are far too many unnecessary eleven-hour, fifty-minute crises, which cause a disproportionate amount of damage to business confidence, and which undoubtedly add to the cost of turning round the companies involved," he added.

The NEB, said Lord Ryder, would also seek to reinforce government manpower policies. It would do this both by stimulating various forms of worker participation in decision-making and by looking for every opportunity to improve the quality of the management of companies in which it had an interest by seeking out and promoting younger talent.

## Hold ups in designing nuclear reactor explained to Mr Benn

By Roger Vielvoe  
Progress on the design work for the steam generating heavy water reactor system was outlined to Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, when he met five leading members of the nuclear industry yesterday.

Scaling up the Winfrith reactor prototype to a commercial 660 Megawatt design is proving more difficult than expected, and the electricity authorities insist that there would be no orders until the design work was complete has meant that no contracts have been signed.

A reference design for the Sizewell B and Torness stations is expected by the end of the year, with commercial orders following later. The Central Electricity Generating Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board have agreed

that the Nuclear Power Co should be responsible for the "nuclear island" in the power stations and the boards will undertake the other design and engineering work.

The programme is also slightly delayed by staff shortages within NRC, although the position should improve as the advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) construction schedule advances and men move on to SGHWR work.

It was Mr Benn's first meeting with leaders of the nuclear industry. The delegation was made up of Sir John Hill, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority; Dr Ned Franklin, chief executive of the NPC; Lord Aldington, chairman of the National Nuclear Corporation; Mr Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the CEBG and Mr Francis Tombs, chairman of the SSEB.

## Opec policy meeting proves abortive

From Alan McGregor  
Geneva, Nov 18

Twelve of the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) were represented today at a policy-coordination meeting for next month's conference on international economic cooperation in Paris.

It proved abortive, lasting under three hours.

The official explanation given was that further discussion on policies could not usefully be undertaken because the group of 77 (developing countries) meeting in New York had, unexpectedly, not yet been able to decide on the exact line-up for the 19 seats allotted to the Third World and Opec members in the 27-nation Paris conference.

## Mr Julian Raikes

We wish to make it clear that the dealing methods ascribed to Sir Denis Lawson in Margaret Stone's recent article about the National Group of Unit Trusts were never practised while Mr Julian Raikes, who retired in 1962, was senior executive director.

Speaking at a seminar in York organized by the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance he said the longer they waited before converting machines the more it would cost.

We apologize to Mr Raikes should any contrary impression have been given and have agreed at his request to pay a nominal sum to a charity named by him as a token of our regret.

## Tours chief fears overbooking of package holidays

Because tour companies were trying to sell too many package holidays abroad next year, the public would suffer from cancellations and changes in their holiday plans, Mr Hugh Henry, managing director of Swans Tours, said yesterday at the launch of his organization's 1976 holiday programme in Paris.

Swans had no plans for increasing business in 1976, he said, and other tour companies were heading for trouble because of over-optimism.

"My fear is that summer, 1976, will bring vast increases in some places and I don't think the market will stand up to it," Mr Henry said.

Sweet metric plea

Britain's confectionery retailers were urged by Mr Michael Marshall, marketing manager (Moulded Products, Cadbury's) to speed up conversion of their weight scales to show imperial and metric units.

Speaking at a seminar in York organized by the Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance he said the longer they waited before converting machines the more it would cost.

Cardiff move soon

Movement of files from Companies House in London to the new companies registration office at Cardiff should be completed by the end of next year, Mr Clinton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade with special responsibility for companies, aviation and shipping, said yesterday.

Wool textile exports up

A brighter wool textiles export performance is recorded in figures for September, published yesterday. At £17.2m they were up £1m on the August figures and £1.4m or 9 per cent on September last year.

The recovery was aided by a partial improvement in the West German market and higher sales to Middle East countries which are buying more woollens and worsteds.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Advantages of joint production of vehicle components

From Mr Roy A. Grantham  
Sir, With many thousands of jobs at risk, the future of the Chrysler Corporation has presented the Government with one of its most difficult decisions. Unfortunately the debate has polarized between outright nationalization and letting the company "go to the wall". We would do well, however, to look at the policy adopted by our European competitors in similar circumstances.

Both the West German and French Governments realized that if they wished to compete in the world market then a large integrated producer, reaping the economies of large scale production was essential. Thus, Governments have sponsored the mergers between Volkswagen and NSU/Audi, Renault and Berliet, Peugeot and Citroën, with the stronger absorbing the weaker.

In Britain we are faced with a situation where neither Leyland nor Chrysler is individual

ly large enough to conduct research and development in the fields of engine design and product development on the scale necessary to penetrate new markets. The cost is such that independent companies such as Renault, Peugeot and Volvo have combined to produce a common engine for their large cars.

In the present circumstances it may well be that the best we can secure is for the National Enterprise Board to take a share in Chrysler. Nevertheless, a rescue operation would be greatly enhanced if Chrysler and Leyland were required to coordinate manufacturing work with common manufacturing requirements such as engines and transmissions. Such engines and transmissions would make a more profitable and viable extensive investment in new facilities for Leyland and would reduce the capital requirement for maintaining Chrysler as a viable company.

Although at the present time we are beset by gloomy prognoses, the kind one expects in a slump, the fact is that British wage rates are lower than those of their European, Japanese or American competitors and with a good product backed by an adequate capital base we are capable of securing not only a larger share of our home market but a larger export share as well. This will not be achieved in mass production industries unless we recognize the prime importance of currently maintaining our market share and securing joint production of costly components so as to increase our penetration and profitability for the future.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY A. GRANTHAM,  
General Secretary,  
Association of Professional,  
Executive, Clerical &  
Computer Staff,  
22 Worple Road,  
London, SW19 4DP.

### Effect of borrowings

From Mr G. W. Gardiner

Sir, The sarcastic tone of Professor Charles Kennedy's letter (November 12) took me by surprise, for when I set out to look at one or two examples I found that my doubts about his confident statement were substantiated. The easiest way of explaining my criticism is to quote two examples.

If a company has a net worth (capital) of £200,000 of which £100,000 is invested in property and £100,000 is financing current assets, the resulting current assets of £100,000 are an inflation of 100 per cent on the £100,000 of fixed assets.

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If the company had started off with a net worth of £100,000 and a borrowing of £100,000 to balance its £100,000 of fixed assets and £100,000 of current assets then the result would have been different. The fixed assets would become worth £200,000, the current assets would have to rise to £200,000, the increase being financed again by an additional £100,000 of borrowing.

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### Controlling the money supply

From Mr N. Duck

Sir, In his (October 30) column Peter Jay overstated the case with which the Bank of England can, given existing monetary arrangements, exert precise control over the money supply.

It is a commonplace in monetary economics that the central bank can only control the level of commercial bank deposits with any precision if the supply of and demand for the reserve asset(s) of the banking system are themselves predictable.

There is almost no evidence in the United Kingdom that this condition is satisfied for any of the assets currently defined as reserve assets with the possible exception of cash. It follows that precise control of bank deposits and hence the money supply is unlikely to be achieved with these reserve assets.

However, this conclusion should not force us to accept passively the "Bank of England's traditional conviction" that the money supply cannot be controlled with any certainty, rather it suggests that those who have the responsibility for creating a stable monetary environment should ensure that they have the weapons to do so.

In particular they should define the reserve asset of the banking system in the way that will give them the greatest measure of control over the money supply. If no satisfactory asset for this purpose exists at the moment then the Bank of England should create one.

It is the lack of any sign that the Bank of England is urgently seeking ways to improve its control over the money supply that is most depressing for those economists who regard monetary restraint as an essential feature of any sensible programme for halting inflation.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL W. DUCK,  
University of Bristol,  
Department of Economics,  
Alfred Marshall Building,  
40 Berkeley Square,  
Bristol BS8 3HV.

Oil round the Cape

From Mr J. E. G. Palmer

Sir, A partial reply to Mr Walter Elwell's interesting letter in your Business News pages this morning (November 13) is easy so far as oil is concerned. In 1956 it definitely did cost more to bring crude oil from the Gulf to Europe all the way around the Cape in the (small) 65,000 ton tankers than in 1955.

Today, 20 years later, everyone is using 250,000 ton oil carriers, so the Cape route is "cheaper than the shorter Canal route in smaller tankers."

In 1956, if I remember right, we were studying on the Suez Canal International Consultative Commission, a scheme for widening and deepening the Canal to take 110/140,000 ton tankers; today the Canal would have to be enlarged to take 350,000 tonners.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PALMER,  
Unicorn Cottage, Oxshott,  
Surrey.

Wool textile exports up

A brighter wool textiles export performance is recorded in figures for September, published yesterday. At £17.2m they were up £1m on the August figures and £1.4m or 9 per cent on September last year.

The recovery was aided by a partial improvement in the West German market and higher sales to Middle East countries which are buying more woollens and worsteds.

Cardiff move soon

Movement of files from Companies House in London to the new companies registration office at Cardiff should be completed by the end of next year, Mr Clinton Davis, Under Secretary of State for Trade with special responsibility for companies, aviation and shipping, said yesterday.

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Mr. John Stephenson will join Habitat Holdings in the new year as a main board director and







"Including surplus of reserves after the revaluation of properties at 31st April, 1972 and provisions for deferred profit of other-  
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